THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

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MAIDEN MISSION OF ISRO's COMMERCIAL ARM A SUCCESS

NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), through PSLV-C51, injects Brazil's Amazonia-1 into orbit 17 minutes after launch from Sriharikota

18 CO-PASSENGER SATELLITES, TOO, IN ORBIT

An optical earth observation satellite, Amazonia-1 will provide remote sensing data for monitoring deforestation in the Amazon region and analysing diversified farming. Apart from Amazonia-1, the PSLV rocket carried 18 other satellites that separated in a predetermined sequence. Of the 18, 14 were NSIL's, comprising one from India and 13 from the US | P5

THREE SATS DEVELOPED BY COLLEGES

- The other four sats belonged to IN-SPACe, of which three were developed jointly with Jeppiaar Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu, GH Raisoni College of Engineering, Nagpur, and Sri Shakti Institute of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore. The fourth was Satish Dhawan Sat (SDSAT) by Chennai-based Space Kidz

342
SATELLITES OF 34 CUSTOMER COUNTRIES LAUNCHED BY PSLV SO FAR

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Shah hails EPS, says TN is best in handling Covid-19

KRITHIKA SRINIVASAN @ Villupuram

THE BJP's camaraderie with the AIADMK got a fresh booster shot on Sunday when Union Home Minister Amit Shah heaped praises on the Edappadi K Palaniswamy government in Tamil Nadu for its handling of the Covid-19 outbreak. "Tamil Nadu stood number one in governance in general, and amid the pandemic too, for which I congratulate Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam," Shah said while addressing a massive public meeting at Janakipuram Ground.

Asserting that the BJP would ally with the AIADMK for the elections in April, he took potshots at the Opposition, accusing it of indulging in corruption. He lashed out at the DMK over the 2G spectrum case, saying Tamil Nadu has 2G, 3G and 4G — two generations of Murasoli Maran's family, three of M Karunanidhi's family, and four of Jawaharlal Nehru's family — all vying for power.

In a scathingly raw attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Shah said, "Rahul *baba* goes to watch jallikattu live to show solidarity with Tamil people, forgetting that it was the Congress that had banned jallikattu. The BJP and AIADMK had revoked the ban."

Greeting the crowd with a warm "*vanakkam*" when he climbed onto the dais, Shah proceeded with an elaborate introduction, highlighting that Tamil is the oldest and sweetest language. He also apologised for not speaking in it.

'Will use non-violence and love to beat Modi'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tirunelveli

CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday described Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a "formidable enemy" who 'crushed' his opponents, and vowed to send him to political oblivion by following the path of love and non-violence.

Speaking at the Educator's Meet at St Xavier's College in Palayamkottai, Gandhi, who is touring southern TN for the second day as part of his second leg of campaign, said he counted on people's support to defeat the BJP. When a participant wanted to know if Gandhi felt it was possible to nudge the Modi government to implement his 'good ideas' rather than waiting to assume power which seemed 'Utopian', he said it could be done with the 'powerful' and 'valuable' support of the people.

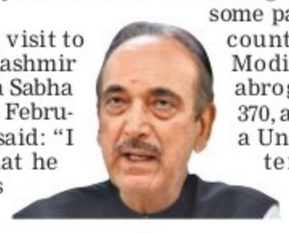
"It is important to dream big, though some of it may not come true," he said, in an obvious reference to snatching the reins of power from the BJP. "Yes, we are fighting a formidable enemy (Modi). We are fighting an enemy that is dominating with money. We are fighting an enemy that is crushing its opponents. But we have done this before. We have defeated a much bigger enemy (British) than this new enemy." P5

AZAD RAPPED FOR HAILING PM, POKING AT THE GANDHIS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Srinagar/New Delhi

A day after the G23 dissenters observed that the Congress was getting weaker, veteran party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for staying true to his roots while indirectly questioning the way the Gandhis function.

On his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after his Rajya Sabha term ended on February 15, Azad said: "I appreciate that he (Modi) does not hide his true self. Those who do so are living in a bubble. I like a lot of things about many leaders. I am from a village and I am very proud of it. Politically, we are opposed to him but at least he does not hide his true (self) reality. We all should be proud of our roots."



However, his comments did not go down well with some party leaders, who countered it was the Modi-led Centre that abrogated the Article 370, and made the state a Union Territory after carving out Ladakh. P7

Satellite built by students will keep vigil over seas

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Bengaluru

INDIA now has a micro-satellite in space to keep an eye on suspicious movement of ships and prevent another 26/11-type of attack, thanks to the involvement of students from Bengaluru-based PES University. This was one of the four satellites developed by students and launched by Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) PSLV-C51 on Sunday.

The SindhuNetra ('Eye of the Sea') satellite of the DRDO and its basic infrastructure (the satellite bus) that supports the payload and handles its data, was designed and developed by a team of faculty members and students at PES University, said Dr V Sambhashiva Rao, Director, Crucible Of Research & Innovation (CORI) at PES, who is also a former ISRO scientist. Several staffers involved in the project and guiding the students, have been scientists at ISRO. The satellite's payload has been designed and developed to monitor ships on the high seas and identify suspicious movements of sea-faring vessels close to India's maritime borders. CONTINUED ON: P5

EXPRESS READ

Lanka 'Priority One' defence partner: India

Colombo: India on Sunday described Sri Lanka as "Priority One" partner in the defence sphere and said the participation of its military aircraft in the 70th anniversary celebration of SLAF indicates the growing cooperation.

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex YOUR LIFE COACH
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID), 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

Online vax registration in K'taka cities

IFFATH FATHIMA & RANJANI MADHAVAN @ Bengaluru

WITH the third phase of vaccination starting from March 1 for citizens aged above 60 years and those in the 45-59 age bracket with specified comorbidities, the state will have online registration mandated for Day 1 from 9 am in all cities across Karnataka while walk-in registration and vaccination will be allowed in rural areas.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Health Commissoner Dr Thrilok Chandra said, "Initially, we will allow walk-in registration and vaccination in rural areas. But, in urban areas of all districts, we have mandated online registration. The vaccines will be transported to private facilities by the Health Department from the regional vaccine stores."

However, there appears to be little clarity on ground, despite the Centre's guidelines, as everything is taking place in the last minute. The medical superintendent of a government hospital said that beneficiaries will register on CoWIN 2.0 version of the app only on Monday, so until then, they will have no idea how many people will turn up.

The hospitals have been told that online registration will take place for the first few days in urban areas and both spot and online registration in other areas. P3

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BDA struggles to collect arrears from defaulters

Tenants in commercial complexes owe ₹36.22 cr; most of them are govt agencies

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

A WHOPPING Rs 36.22 crore is due as arrears to the Bengaluru Development Authority from its tenants spread across its commercial complexes in the city. The chief defaulters are government organisations, who owe nearly half the pending amount.

A senior government official told *The New Indian Express* that a major crackdown was under way across its four zones to make all the present and past occupants pay up through repeated notices. "Our biggest defaulter is the government. Over Rs 16.15 crore is due as rent from nine government organisations," he said.

Giving a break-up of the pending arrears as on January 31 this year, he said that the Karnataka Appellate Tribunal was the biggest defaulter with Rs 5.23 crore, followed by the RTOs which owe Rs 2.89 crore.

Among other pending amounts from government agencies are: e-Governance offices Rs 1.57 crore; Central Administrative Tribunal Rs 1.57 crore; Excise Rs 1.22 crore; Karnataka Electricity Board Rs 1.22 crore, Railways Rs 95 lakh, Police Rs 63 lakh and Sub-Registrar Rs 84.48 lakh.

The BDA owns 16 shopping complexes. Six each are in the East and West Division, while three are in the North and one in the South.

The East Division, which has 477 shops, has the biggest defaulters who have to pay Rs 29.85 crore, both private and government, of the total Rs 36.22 crore, said another official.

"The big complexes in East Division, like in HSR Layout, Indiranagar vegetable complex and Indiranagar Shopping Complex, Koramangala as well as smaller ones like Domlur and Austin Town figure in it. With plans to rebuild Indiranagar and Austin Town complexes, the occupants have vacated, but their rent is still due. We are repeatedly making efforts to get it," he said.

The biggest non-government defaulter is Waldel which owes Rs 20.4 lakh. "It was just Rs 12 lakh four years ago but the accumulated arrears have touched this amount now," a revenue official said.

The North Division needs to collect Rs 1.55 crore, the West Rs 2.07 crore and the South, which has only the Banashankari Shopping Complex, Rs 2.75 crore.

OVER THE MOON

Students take a selfie during an exhibition organised to mark National Science Day at the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

RERA cracks the whip on real estate promoters over adverts

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE Real Estate Regulatory Authority-Karnataka (RERA-K) has made public a list of 32 projects across the state which have violated guidelines laid by it when releasing advertisements.

All projects in the state need to mandatorily register under RERA and this number should figure in every advertisement by the promoter under Section 11 of the Act.

The 32 projects that have been listed on the RERA portal for violations are — Devagiri Emaralds, Golden Springs, Century Greens, Century Greens Phase-2, Sangam Grand, JR Habitat, Elmwood Phase-2, Aastha Properties Phase-3, Chaitanya Samarth, Century Ethos, and Centreo.

RERA Secretary K S Lathakumari said, "Promoters have the responsibility of notifying the RERA registration number. Those who have not done so, should realise this and also educate home buyers in this regard."

Under Section 11 (2) of the Act, "The advertisement or prospectus issued or published by the promoter shall mention prominently the website address of the Authority, wherein all details of the registered project have been entered and include the registration number obtained from the Authority and such other matters incidental thereto."

M S Shankar, General Secretary, Forum for People's Collective Efforts, told *The New Indian Express*, "We welcome the maiden initiatives of K-Rera which has started to analyse the advertisements of projects and issuing notices to those violating the advertisement norms per RERA Act. This kind of action will go a long way in helping home buyers from misleading advertisements."

Promoters have the responsibility of notifying the RERA registration number. Those who have not done so, should realise this and also educate home buyers in this regard

— K S Lathakumari, RERA Secretary

5 mn litres lost: GAIL work damages water pipeline

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE main water transmission pipeline for South Bengaluru on Kathriguppe Main Road was damaged due to gas pipeline work on Saturday, disrupting water supply to several areas. The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has filed an FIR at the local station against a contractor of GAIL Gas Limited for the damage. Normalcy in water supply will be restored on Monday.

J Rajeev, Executive Engineer, Bengaluru South, told The New Indian Express that the pipeline was damaged around 1 am on Saturday, when gas pipeline work was in progress. "This is a 600-mm diameter pipeline, and water began to leak immediately. There was enormous water wastage through the night, with nearly 5 million litres flowing onto the road, affecting traffic."

BWSSB work to repair the pipeline was on for 14 hours on the Kathriguppe Main Road after a GAIL contractor damaged it late on Saturday night | EXPRESS

The contractor did not inform us about it, he charged. "Within an hour, we heard about the incident through our valve man. Our staff commenced work to replace one portion of the underground pipeline by 6 am. The road had to be blocked for traffic. Around 8 pm, the pipeline was set right with a new one," he said.

A case of damage to public property and wastage of water has been registered at Kathriguppe police station, he added.

Meanwhile, a GAIL representative confirmed that the incident had taken place. "Before laying the pipeline, we assessed there would be a 400-mm gap between the water and gas pipelines. Somehow, the gas pipeline came in close contact with the top of the water pipe, damaging it," he said.

EXPRESS READ

Man ends life, holds friend responsible

Bengaluru: A 34-year-old man committed suicide after his friend allegedly did not return Rs 11 lakh borrowed from him two years ago. On February 26, the victim, Manjunath, had uploaded a video on social media demanding legal action against his friend, Pawan. Manjunath was missing for a week, and his family had filed a missing person's complaint with Kothanur police, who found his body hanging from a tree at an isolated place on Saturday. Based on the video, a case of abatement to suicide has been registered against Pawan. Further investigations are on. **ENS**

Elusive tigress with snare on neck finally captured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE tigress with a snare around its neck, which had kept the forests officials in Karnataka and Kerala on high alert, was captured by the forest staffers in Gundre range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve (BTR).

The tigress was first sighted with a snare on its neck in Kerala. After two failed attempts to capture it, the tigress had given the slip to forest officials and entered into BTR in Karnataka. Many camera traps and teams were deployed to sight and capture the animal. The tigress showed up some time between late on Saturday night and early Sunday morning and was captured.

Bandipur Tiger Reserve Director Naresh told *The New Indian Express* that a cage had been placed to capture the animal as darting was difficult. The animal walked into the cage and was safely captured.

Naresh explained that the animal, aged 10-11, was brought to Mysuru zoo for treatment. The snare has been removed. Her canines and claws, though intact, are not in good condition. Preliminary treatment is being given after which it will decided whether to release the animal back in the wild or not. But it may be a difficult choice in view of the injuries it has, he said.

Forest department officials said darting could have caused more damage as the tigress was already in agony due to injuries. The officials added that the animal was numbered and counted in the last tiger census in Bandipur. The tigress' large range was in the borders of Karnataka and Kerala and it used the stream which runs between the two states. The tigress had got caught in a snare on the Kerala side, but details of the inquiry about the snare or poachers has not been shared with the Karnataka forest department officials.

The animal, aged 10-11, was brought to Mysuru zoo for treatment. The snare has been removed. Her canines and claws, though intact, are not in good condition

Naresh, Director, BTR

The tigress with a snare around in its neck was trapped in Gundre range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve on Sunday. It was shifted to a rehabilitation centre at Mysuru zoo

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

01st March: It's time to stand up for India's ancient contribution to science and astronomy. It was India which invented the number zero, and Indian philosophy which created the concept of recognizing that 'nothing is something'! It's thanks to India that the international symbol for zero is a circle, because the sages of the past realized that the sky is circular.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
A change in emotional perspective may be due to realisation that someone's intentions were misunderstood. Must make more efforts to understand how others are feeling. A new, valuable long-term friendship may develop in within a few weeks...

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Your solar chart is beginning to look considerably more relaxed, which means that if you have any lingering problems to cope with, they will be caused by yesterday's questions and difficulties, rather than today's. Mind you, you've got to keep a clear head.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Although you've been cracking along at a fair old pace recently, it will soon be time to take stock, and perhaps go over old ground again. Stay alert and keep an eye on fortune's subtle ebb and flow. Opportunities will come and go, but you'll have to be quick off the mark.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Domestic affairs matter most at the moment. This could be an extremely useful period to get in touch with family members you've not seen for some time. And it's certainly a good moment to see that all your ambitions are based on firm foundations.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
It's a day for making choices, although whether you are truly in any state to make important long-term decisions is another matter! If current issues focus around money, and how to get more of it, you're probably on the right track.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You are entering what can only be described as a more settled period for affairs of the heart. The question is whether recent opportunities on the field of romance can be followed up, or are to be left on the scrapheap of history. The truth may emerge after another few days have passed.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Emotional confidence is returning, but the planets advise a small dose of caution. It may be difficult to practise restraint, but you'll know when the moment is right to hold back. Trust your instincts, although that's not an easy at the best of times.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
You can afford to keep your intentions and feelings to yourself for a little while longer. The question, though, is whether, when the moment does come to reveal all, you will be able to choose the time and the place. If you can, all well and good.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You are often torn between a sociable desire to involve other people in your affairs on the one hand, and a strangely solitary urge to go off and do your own thing on the other. Although the latter is very important over the next few months, the former should take precedence today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The overall picture now becomes very much more certain, and, to your relief, less confused. It's not what's true that counts as much as what you believe to be true. Give others the benefit of the doubt, at least until they've had time to explain themselves.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
The past month seems to have coincided with flared passions and tense situations, often over avoidable matters. If professional ambitions have been disturbed you'll soon find it easy to make up. Private disputes require a little more attention...

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You are no doubt highly stressed. Mars, the planet responsible, has a little way to go before it leaves you alone, but you may now get ready to turn the tables on the person - or thing - responsible for the stress. No excuse please for not tackling adventurous task.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

LOCKHORNS

"SO ... IS IT TRUE THAT YOU CAN ONLY BE STOPPED BY A SILVER BULLET?"

DENNIS THE MENACE

'HOW DO YA SAY *FRENCH TOAST* IN ENGLISH?'

SUDOKU

HARD: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

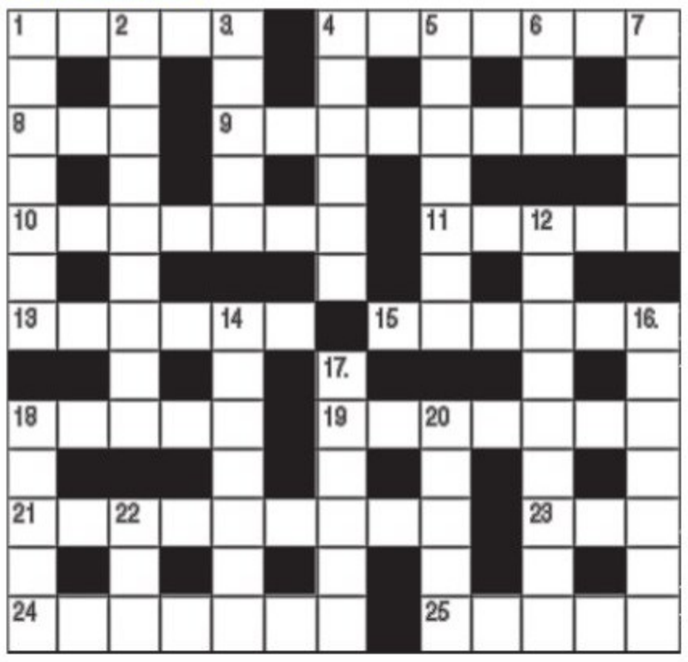
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

9	4			7			5	
	7		4	8			1	2
	8	3	9		1			
5	3						9	4
			7		5			
8	6						2	7
			6		4	2	3	
4	9			3	7		6	
	1			2			4	9

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

3	4	8	1	6	9	2	5	7
1	7	2	4	8	5	9	6	3
5	6	9	3	2	7	8	4	1
9	2	1	6	7	8	5	3	4
6	5	3	2	4	1	7	9	8
7	8	4	9	5	3	1	2	6
2	9	7	8	3	4	6	1	5
8	3	6	5	1	2	4	7	9
4	1	5	7	9	6	3	8	2

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Way out route is built (5)
4 Lying in a case perhaps (7)
8 Age shown by a character actor (3)
9 Basic way to travel on earth (4,5)
10 Singular ingredient of the weather (7)
11 A North European returned in dismay (5)
13 A flicker of light? (6)
15 Goods thrown out from planes in the morning (6)
18 Dance having beat and vigour (5)
19 I lament about disorder (7)
21 A good one gets a lot of backing (9)
23 Talk that may come naturally (3)
24 Look after a minor charge (4-3)
25 It's said to save a wandering tribe (5)

DOWN

1 Strangely there's no sense in unity (7)
2 Actor that is serious at reading play (9)
3 Bear has no right to invest (5)
4 He stole away from the shore (6)
5 Desert people struggle to survive (3,4)
6 One Italian girl's name (3)
7 Countryman of fifty under servitude (5)
12 Ineffective player may be seen going to train (9)
14 Linen chest that's new; look inside (7)
16 A French painter puts it up en masse (7)
17 Bird one may buy or part exchange (6)
18 Feverish activity in temples (5)
20 It will draw blood (5)
22 Pen mate (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: Across: 1 Ceremonial, 8 Clear, 9 Upstage, 10 Electra, 11 Omens, 12 Petals, 14 Bemoan, 17 Alpha, 19 Athlete, 21 Ketchup, 22 Tails, 23 Phrenology.

Down: 2 Everest, 3 Egret, 4 Ocular, 5 Inshore, 6 Lease, 7 Messengers, 8 Cheapjacks, 13 Leather, 15 Opening, 16 Sampan, 18 Put up, 20 Hotel.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUEES

SSLAA

ZYNASZ

TPECID

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Lets talk about some highlights from your Hall of Fame career! Talk about, "The Catch!"
That was a while ago. I threw it in the 1981 NFC Championship Game.
SAYING, "JOE MONTANA THREW FOR 273 NFL TOUCHDOWNS," IS AN EXAMPLE OF ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

_____ - _____

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S: **Jumbles:** FUSSY CREEK CONFER UNSURE

ANSWER: When the landfill started to overflow, employees had to — REFUSE THE REFUSE

The state finance department has given its consent for the appointment of 173 PU college lecturers and 257 high school teachers in private aided institutes. The appointments will be made in the coming academic year

Over 50% Covid patients with barotrauma succumbed to illness

38 of 410 patients (9.3%) showed high incidence during study period; data can help docs develop treatment protocol, ventilatory management of such patients

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

CRITICALLY-ill Covid patients who were on respiratory support had a high incidence of barotrauma, and over half of such patients succumbed to their illness, a new study has found.

The study — Severe Covid 19 pneumonia and barotrauma: From the frying pan into the fire — was posted as a preprint on medRxiv on February 16. It retrospectively analysed data of 410 patients between June and November 2020 at Apollo Specialty Hospital in Jayanagar, Bengaluru.

Thirty-eight of 410 patients (9.3%) showed high incidence of barotrauma during the study period, which refers to injuries in the body caused by increased air or water pressure. In this case, it refers to lung damage similar to tearing of the lung tissue, which can lead to collection of air around the lungs. This air can also push its way out to below the skin.

Twenty (52.6%) of the 38 patients with barotrauma were non non-invasive ventilation and 18 (47.8%) were on intermittent mandatory ventilation. Overall, 24 (63.2%) of the 38 patients, including 15 (83.3%) of 18 on mechanical ventilation, succumbed to illness due to barotrauma.

Passengers wait in a queue for their turn as a girl gives her swab sample at KSR Railway Station in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

"Barotrauma is an uncommon, but known complication in patients on mechanical ventilation for various reasons. Reported incidence before the pandemic was around 2.9 per cent," said Dr Hari Prasad, pulmonology consultant, Apollo Specialty Hospitals and lead author of the study.

"The cause of barotrauma is severe damage to the lungs from the disease itself, longer duration of respiratory support required by Covid patients, uniform use of cortisteroids as per worldwide recommendations and infection. The barotrauma suddenly hits patients and we wouldn't know unless and ultrasound or X-ray of the lungs catches the condition fast. If it is not caught, chances of mortality are high," said Dr Ravindra Mehta, head of pulmonology at Apollo Hospitals and one of the authors of the study.

Barotrauma occurred around a median 6.5 days after admission and 15 days from the onset of symptoms. Median duration from barotrauma to death was seven days, and barotrauma to discharge for survivors was 12.5 days, it found.

The study authors claimed that it is the first of its kind in India, and that it could help doctors develop or modify treatment protocol and ventilatory management of such patients. "It involves a large patient population and comprehensive analysis and enhances awareness of this complication and a wake-up call for the medical community to institute prevention and maintain vigilance for this complication in these critically ill patients," the study said.

FIRST IN INDIA

1-yr-old with rare illness gets cochlear implant

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

ONE-year-old Nitin (name changed) suffered from congenital hearing loss due to a rare genetic disorder — Waardenburg-Shah (type 4) syndrome. But, with timely treatment through cochlear implant surgery, Nitin can hear and enjoy sounds for the first time in his life and develop speech.

He is also the first child in India with Waardenburg-Shah syndrome to undergo cochlear implant.

Waardenburg-Shah (type-4) syndrome is a rare genetic condition that can cause hearing loss, change in colouring (pigmentation) of the hair, skin, and eyes and Hirschsprung disease, an intestinal disorder that causes severe constipation or blockage of the intestine. Less than 10 cases of babies with this syndrome have been reported in India.

Nitin would not respond to sounds and after he turned one. His parents then consulted a private hospital.

"Since the scans and MRI revealed that his cochlear and auditory nerve structures were normal, we decided to put superpower digital hearing aid for both the ears. We also began training sessions in listening for him. Since he was not still responding to sounds, we counselled the family and they decided to go ahead with a cochlear implant. Surgery was performed for the right ear and finally, the child was able to hear sounds for the first time in his life on January 2. He is now undergoing Auditory Verbal Therapy and is recovering. The parents have decided to go for the cochlear implant for the left ear later. For now, he is wearing a hearing aid on the left ear," said Dr Santosh Shivaswamy, Senior consultant ENT, Cochlear Implant, Surgeon at Columbia Asia Hospital, Hebbal.

Dr Shivaswamy added, "Timely surgery helped Nitin overcome his hearing problem. Performing surgery before the age of 3 helps restore both speech and hearing in babies with congenital hearing loss. If treatment is delayed, the results of the surgery and speech outcome may vary."

Congenital birth defects are a major cause for infant mortality worldwide.

As per a recent World Health Organisation newsletter, an estimated 2,95,000 newborns die within 28 days of birth every year due to this. Identifying the birth defects in the initial stage and treating them early can help in effective treatment and faster recovery of the child.

Nitin's parents were happy with the outcome. Nitin's mother said, "Our son is finally responding to us when we call him by his name. This is one of the happiest moments for us! Although we were aware of the genetic condition of our son, we were anxious whether he will be able to overcome his hearing problem. The doctors at Columbia Asia Hospital Hebbal have made it possible for him."

4,000 RUN FOR RARE DISEASE AWARENESS IN 200 CITIES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TO raise awareness on 7,000 odd rare diseases in the world and 70 million rare disease patients in India, Racefor7 — an annual marathon by Organisation for Rare Diseases India (ORDI) — was flagged off by para-athlete and Limca Record holder K Y Venkatesh, in Bengaluru on Sunday. The event was held virtually, uniting over 4,000 participants from 200 cities across the country, to raise their voices for the rare disease community. Kannada film actress Shweta Prasad was also present on the occasion.

According to ICMR, a disease or disorder is defined as rare in India if it affects fewer than 1 in 2,500 people.

One of the participants, Dr Meenakshi Bhat, a clinical geneticist at the Centre for Human Genetics in the city, said, "There are more than 7,000 rare diseases, of which only some are invisible, making it a challenge for early diagnosis and for the family dealing with it."

As per the press note, India has the world's third-highest rare disease population. While 70 percent of rare diseases start during childhood, 30 percent of the patients die before the age of five. Less than five percent of rare diseases have available treatment, but most of them are unaffordable.

"In India, the primary challenge is the lack of awareness about rare diseases. Moreover, the stigma attached to it makes it impossible for rare disease patients to lead lives of dignity. Changing the scenario of the rare disease community in India is certainly not a one-day task," ORDI said in a statement.

Prasanna Shirol, Founder Director of ORDI said more needs to be done, most importantly in terms of a policy for rare diseases and orphan drugs, which he hopes to see implemented in 2021. Orphan drugs are developed to treat rare medical conditions, which, owing to less numbers, would not be profitable to make without government assistance.

Para-athlete K Y Venkatesh flagged off an annual marathon to raise awareness on rare diseases in Bengaluru on Sunday

Hospitals advise people not to rush for vaccination dose

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HOWEVER, how many people will turn up to get the jab is not estimated as registration will open on the same day as the vaccine drive. Hospitals too are being mapped as Covid vaccination centres on the CoWIN app only on Sunday, to be available for public viewing from March 1 onwards.

Meanwhile, private hospitals have been getting calls from patients wanting to know how they should register and if they can walk in for the Covid vaccine jab, but the hospitals say they need to see how the programme works out for next to three days to have better clarity about the process.

"Patients have been calling us and we have asked them to register online. But they are asking for spot registration. We have still not received proper information as to how the process will be carried out. We have asked the patients to wait for two to three days and then come for the vaccination as there will be clarity by then. We do not want people rushing to hospitals. We are, however, prepared and we have the manpower ready. We will initially start the Phase-3 vaccination in one unit and then extend it in the coming days. Right now, we do not even know how many should be vaccinated in a day," said Dr Naresh Shetty, president, Ramaiah Memorial Hospital.

Dr Prasanna, MD of Pristine Hospital, pointed out that the BBMP has been reaching out to private hospitals to check if they would be part of the vaccination drive. "As it is voluntary for private hospital to be part of the drive, BBMP has been calling hospitals on Sunday to get their confirmation. People too have been calling to inquire about registration. We are told by the health officials that even spot registration can be done if people have not registered online. But there is not clarity on whether the government will bear the cost or the patient, in case AEFI is reported," said Dr Prasanna.

WHERE TO GET YOUR SHOT

Government centres

KC General Hospital, Jayanagar General Hospital, Bangalore Medical College and Hospital, Bowring Medical College and Hospital, CV Raman General Hospital

Private centres

Vikram Hospital, Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road; Raghavendra People Tree Hospital, Sapthagiri Institute of Medical Sciences, Columbia Asia Hospital, Yeshwanthpur; Apollo Hospital, Sheshadripuram; Columbia Asia Hospital, Sarjapur; Columbia Asia Hospital, Whitefield; Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road; Apollo Hospital, Bannerghatta Road, Sparsh Hospital, Rajarajeswari Medical College & Hospital, BGS Global Institute of Medical Sciences, Columbia Asia Hospital, Hebbal; Aster CMI Hospital, Hebbal; Apollo Speciality Hospital, Jayanagar; Dayanand Sagar Hospital, Kumaraswamy Layout; Mallige Hospital, Sushrusha Hospital, MS Ramaiah Medical College and Hospital

All rural centres will have both online and walk-in registration and vaccination

EXPRESS READ

Reality show contestant assaults shopkeeper

Bengaluru: Basaveshwaranagar police filed a case against a reality show contestant recently. A police officer said the complainant, Kiran Raj, who runs a provision store, alleged that the accused, Rajath Kishan, had parked his BMW car in front of his shop and started smoking on Friday. When he asked Kishan to move, he said he will in five minutes. When he did not move even after a while, Kiran asked him again. This led to a quarrel, following which Kishan assaulted Kiran and ransacked his shop. When his mother tried to intervene, Kishan allegedly misbehaved with her and tried to beat her. He also threatened them with dire consequences before leaving. Kiran was taken to a hospital for treatment. An FIR has been registered and the police yet to take action against Kishan. **ENS**

Speeding truck runs over teacher

Bengaluru: A 51-year-old school teacher was killed on the spot after a speeding goods truck jumped onto the footpath and knocked her down at Nagarabavi circle, near Vijayanagar, on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Vidya Manjunath, who worked at a private school in Papareddypalya. The incident occurred around 11.45 am when Vidya was walking on the footpath to a grocery store. The speeding truck which lost control, jumped onto the footpath, and ran over her. Other pedestrians miraculously escaped. Byatarayanapura traffic police called a crane to pull away the truck, before shifting the body for postmortem. The driver of the truck ran away. Efforts are on to nab him. **ENS**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NIHAL IDDYA RAO**, aged about 26 years, S/o. Mahesh Iddya, residing at # G01, Vandana Celesta, 4th Main Road, BOB Colony, Opp. Chaitanya PU College, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore - 560 078, Karnataka, India, have changed my name as **NIHAL RAO IDDYA** vide affidavit dated 27.02.2021 sworn before Advocate & Notary **H.S. Dharma Prasad**, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that, my Client **Mr. S. Babu S/o. Mr. M.G Sundara Murthy,** BDA Site No. 4209, situated at 49th Main, Kumaraswamy Layout 2nd Stage, Bangalore. has lost the Original Sale Deed dated 02/03/2012 executed by Sri. Nagarjuna M S in favour of Vijay Kottyaal, Registered No. BSG-1-03365-2011-12, Cd No. BSGD160, Sub Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore. in respect of the site bearing BDA Site No. 4209 measuring East to West : 9.15 Mtrs., and North to South : (6.0 + 8.50) /2, Kumaraswamy Layout 2nd Stage, Bangalore City. If any of the Public Persons find or in possession of the Original Sale Deeds dated 02/03/2012, shall hand over to the address mentioned below.

K.S CHANDRA SHEKAR
Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India,
No.21, Dhondusa Layout,
Off. Bull Temple Road, Mount Joy Cross Road, Hanumanthanagar,
Bengaluru-19. Mob: 9448366193

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
No. 10/3/8, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001

EMPANELMENT OF TAILORS

Reserve Bank of India, Bengaluru is in the process of Empaneling Tailoring Firms from Bengaluru City for stitching of uniforms for eligible male Staff members. Applications are invited in this connection.

The Terms and Conditions for Empanelment and Application formats can be downloaded from our website https://www.rbi.org.in or could be obtained from Human Resource Management Department, 3rd Floor, Reserve Bank of India, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001 between 10 am and 4 pm on working days.

The last date for submission of applications is March 23, 2021.

Regional Director, RBI Bengaluru

Hg. Dt: 19/03/2021
EMERGENT NOTICE

FORM No.19
Notice for appearance in Civil Revision Petitions, Civil Petitions and Officer Petitions
Rules 1,2,4 and II of Chapter XIII
(Karnataka High Court Rules)

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
SUBSTITUTED SERVICE OF NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT NO. 9
BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION VIDE ORDER DATED: 19/02/2021

CMP No. 122/2018

PETITIONER V/s RESPONDENTS
M/S. VORA REALTY LLP MR. C. NAGARAJ AND OTHERS

Sri. P.B. Appiah (Advocate) for the Petitioner has filed the above CMP praying this Hon'ble Court to appoint such person as this Hon'ble Court deems fit as the Sole Arbitrator to adjudicate the disputes that have arisen between the petitioner and the respondents under the Joint Development Agreement dated 31 May 2010 entered into between the petitioner and the respondents as at Annexure-B; award to the petitioner the costs of these proceedings; and, pass such other and further orders as this Hon'ble Court deems fit in the facts and circumstances of the case in the interests of justice and equity.

To,
R9. MR. C. JAGADISH
AGED ABOUT 43 YEARS
SON OF LATE MR. CHIKKAYELLAPPA,
RESIDING AT NO.15/1, CHAITHRASUDHA,
4TH CROSS, AREKEMPANAHALI, WILSON GARDEN,
BENGALURU - 560027. ..... RESPONDENT/S

Whereas the above named Petitioner has filed a CMP on this Court Under Sec.11(5) & (6) read with section 11 (12) (b) of Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, as in the copy annexed hereunto.

Emergent Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this Court in person or through an Advocate duly instructed or through some one authorized by law to act for you, in this matter on **19/03/2021 AT 10:30 A.M** or on any subsequent date to which the Case may be posted for hearing in case you intend to contest the Petition. If you fail to appear, the petition will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, this **12th Day of June 2018 & on 19th Day of February 2021**.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
Sd/- (M.M. HALAGI)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXII ADDL. CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE, AT BANGALORE
Crl. Mis. No. 502/2021

Between: **1. USHA,** W/o. Late. Gopichand, aged about 48 years, R/at. No. 168, Valagerahalli, Kengeri Upanagara, Bangalore 560060 **2. NAYANA .G,** W/o.Narasimharaju M.N, aged about 23 years, R/at. No. 160, Valagerahalli, Kengeri, Upanagara, Bangalore-560060. **3. NIKITHA,** W/o. Krishnamurthy, aged about 21 years, R/at. Venugopalaswamy Temple, Fort Road, Magadi Ramaiah House, Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural- 562110
...PETITIONERS

And: The Commissioner of BBMP, Registrar of Births & Deaths, Rajarajeshwarinagar Zone, Bangalore **...RESPONDENT**

PAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas, the petitioner has filed the above petition U/s. 13(3) of the birth and death acts seeking direction to the commissioner Bangalore to register the death of the deceased is husband of the 1st Petitioner by name **GOPICHAND, S/o. Late. RAMAKRISHNAPPA,** was died on 12.3.2016 at No. 160, Valagerahalli, Kengeri Upanagara, Bangalore-560060. and issue the direction accordingly for the death certificate to produce the concerned authority.

If any person interested in the matter may appear before the Hon'ble court either personally or through an advocate duly instructed on **30.03.2021 at 11.00 am.**, otherwise the matter will be heard and decided as ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 25.02.2021.

By Order of the Court, Sheristedar, ACMM, Bangalore.

Advocate for Petitioner: **Sri S. SURESH,** Advocate No.35, 2nd Main Road, Sakamma Garden, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

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STATEMENT ABOUT OWNERSHIP AND OTHER PARTICULARS OF THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS, BENGALURU AS REQUIRED UNDER RULE 8 OF THE REGISTRATION OF NEWSPAPERS (CENTRAL) RULES, 1956
FORM IV
(See Rule 8)

1	Place of Publication	: BENGALURU
2	Periodicity of Publication	: Daily (Except on Sundays)
3	Printer's Name	: R.K.JHUNJHUNWALA
	Nationality	Indian
	Address	No.1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru-560 001.
4	Publisher's Name	: R.K.JHUNJHUNWALA
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5	Editor	: G.S.VASU
	Nationality	Indian
	Address	Express Gardens, 29, Second Main Road, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai-600 058.
6	Resident Editor (Karnataka)	: SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA
	Nationality	Indian
	Address	No.1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru-560 001.
7	Names & Addresses of individuals who own the newspaper	: EXPRESS PUBLICATIONS (MADURAI) PRIVATE LIMITED Express Gardens, 29, Second Main Road, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai-600 058.
	AND	
	Shareholders holding more than one per cent of the total capital	: SIDDHARTH MEDIA HOLDINGS PRIVATE LIMITED Express Gardens, 29, Second Main Road, Ambattur Industrial Estate, Chennai-600 058.

I, R.K. JHUNJHUNWALA hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: 1.3.2021 R.K. JHUNJHUNWALA
PUBLISHER

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office : 201, Raheja Point-1, Near SVC Bank, Vakola, Nehru Road, Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400055.
Kengeri Branch : Site No 1107, 2nd Floor, 1st Main Road, Kengeri Satellite Town, Opposite to Dominos, Kengeri - 560060 (Karnataka)..

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub –section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of AHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Sl No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
1	(Appl No.V0136157) Kengeri Branch Deelipkumar S (Borrower) Shital Kambale (Co-Borrower)	Flat No 002 Ground Floor, Sy. No.22/2, R S Happy Homes, Gollahalli, Balaji Layout, Electronic City , Bangalore-560100, Karnataka.. Bounded : **East Side : Flat No. 001, West Side :** Flat No. 003, **North Side :** Road.and **South Side : Flat No. 006**	10.12.2019 ₹ 27,53,805 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Five Only)	26-02-2021

Place: Kengeri
Date : 1.3.2021

Authorised Officer
Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad on Sunday said that its fund collection drive - 'Ram Temple Nidhi Samarpan' - for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya was complete. In a statement, VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said all the data, experiences and anecdotes of the drive will be released soon

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Shooting the messenger

It was a boo from the boondocks for state BJP president and Dakshina Kannada MP Naleen Kumar Kateel. After the media highlighted the plight of a few villagers in Balpa, a remote hamlet in Sullia taulk, where they are yet to get electricity connection, the MP was furious with the media and administration officials at a recent district coordination committee meeting. "The government has done a lot in the area and this particular village is part of the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. What the media does not know is the technical issues that have come in the way of electrifying the village. The authorities should book cases against them," he said. Later cooling down a little, he trained his guns on the administration officials for not informing him about the lack of facility in the village. "How will I know if you don't tell me," he shouted at them. But in the heat, he did forget one thing ... that is too thank the media, for giving him the information!

Sons and the movie connection

It seems to be a trend with children of politicians. They are taking the route of the silver screen to launch their careers in politics. Like in the case of JDS leader H D Kumaraswamy's son, Nikhil, Gubbi JDS MLA S R Srinivas' son, 23-year-old Dushyanth S Servegar, too is making his debut in the tinsel world. The law graduate from a UK university is acting as a hero in a Kannada movie, titled 'Robin Hood', an adaptation of the life of the heroic outlaw. "If the movie clicks, he may continue to act. If it does not, then politics may be his next resort, as as it happened in the case of Nikhil Kumaraswamy," say people from Gubbi.

The marketing woman

It is a jugalbandhi of allegation and counter-allegation that has been going on for years between Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and Belagavi Rural Congress MLA Lakshmi Hebbalkar. The latest tit-for-tat was triggered by Hebbalkar, who recently said that she was responsible for Jarkiholi becoming a minister when he was with Congress. Not the one to take it lying down, Jarkiholi said, "My well-wishers, seniors have warned me to not speak about her and reply to her statements. But I will still say it anyway... She is a marketing woman, she markets herself well with her actions and words. Let's ask Siddaramaiah who made me a minister the first time, then I will tell them how I became a minister."

Former chief minister Siddaramaiah and former Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar in conversation during the wedding of AICC General Secretary and Karnataka Congress in-charge Randeep Surjewala's son Arjun, in New Delhi on Sunday. Opposition leader in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Rajya Sabha member Dr Syed Nasir Hussain, MLC B K Hariprasad, and a host of Congress leaders were present at the wedding

BSY GIVES B'DAY GIFT TO SHIVAMOGGA DIST

Launches ₹150-cr Muguru lift irrigation project; Says focus will be on water projects, schemes for women in budget

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

A day after muted birthday celebrations in Bengaluru, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Sunday reached his home district Shivamogga, where he launched the Rs 105-crore Muguru lift irrigation project.

Launching the project at Anavatti in Sorab taluk near here, he said it will help fill up 31 lakes and solve the drinking water crisis by improving the groundwater level in the taluk. The project will draw water from the Varada river.

Giving a hint on the state budget to be presented by him on March 8, he said importance will be given to irrigation projects and welfare schemes aimed at women.

He said that 15 road projects have been completed at a cost of Rs 9 crore in Sorab taluk, and an ayurvedic hospital at Guduvi village, Raitha Samparka Kendra at Ulavi village and a Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Bharangi village have also been constructed.

He said that convention halls will be built in 71 villages at a cost of Rs 13.49 crore.

"The State Government will develop infrastructure facilities in rural areas," he said, instructing officials to direct the contractors to expedite construction works.

Sorab MLA Kumar Bangarappa said that Muguru lift irrigation project was a long-pending demand of the people of Sorab. A committee needs to be formed to ensure the scientific usage of water. The agriculture sector needs sufficient water and power supply, he added. The MLA urged Yediyurappa to sanction a KSRTC bus stand for Anavatti taluk, a degree college for Chandragutti and an APMC at Sorab. "The CM has kept all the promises he made to the people during elections. A total of nine electricity grids have been constructed in Sorab taluk," he said.

Meanwhile, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa said that it was Yediyurappa who changed the direction of BJP. "He made the party discuss farmers' issue at the national forum, when they were only concerned about nationalism and the issues of Ram Mandir and Kashmir," he said while addressing an event organised by B S Yediyurappa Abhinandana Samiti.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa being felicitated at a programme organised in Shivamogga on Sunday. RDPR Minister K S Eshwarappa and former Council chairman D H Shankaramurthy are also seen | SHIMOGA NANDAN

It was struggles that shaped my life. With whatever time I have left as the chief minister, I am committed to the development of Shivamogga district and state. I think we have fulfilled almost all demands of Shivamogga. I will do more, if needed

BS Yediyurappa, Chief Minister

NGT sets up panel to probe Chikkaballapur quarry blast

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted a six-member joint committee to probe the Chikkaballapur quarry blast that left six dead on February 22 and submit a report to the tribunal.

The committee will comprise members from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB); Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB); District Magistrate, Chikkaballapur; nominee of Director General, Mines; Chief Controller of Explosives, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Nagpur; and the Director, Mines, Karnataka.

An NGT bench, headed by Justice A K Goel, has said the committee members can visit the site — at a quarry in Hirenagavalli — within a week to conduct the probe into the causes behind the blast and submit the report.

"Except for the visit to the site at least once, the committee will be free to conduct its proceedings online. It can take the assistance of any other expert or organisation. It may suitably interact with the stakeholders and, apart from the present incident, also consider remedial measures to prevent such incidents in the area or by other establishments even beyond the said area," the bench said.

The tribunal has issued notices to CPCB, KSPCB, Director of Mines in Karnataka and the district magistrate of Chikkaballapur, and has stated that the CPCB and KSPCB will act as the nodal agencies for the probe. The bench decided to constitute the committee after taking into cognizance media reports appearing a day after the blast.

The tribunal noted that as per preliminary reports shared by the police, the quarrying had been stopped on February 7 after local residents complained about the rampant use of gelatin sticks. But quarrying continued despite the ban, following which another raid had been conducted and contractors strictly warned against using gelatin sticks.

GELATIN STICKS SEIZED IN ATHANI

Police on Sunday seized gelatin sticks and other explosive material from a field in Telsang village of Athani taluk. Three people have been arrested. Police seized three boxes of gelatin sticks worth ₹7,500, two tractors and a backhoe.

NO RESPITE

Siddu cancels Mysuru visit as feud continues in Cong over mayor polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

THE latest trouble within the state Congress triggered by the recent Mysuru mayoral polls refuses to die down with former chief minister Siddaramaiah — who is said to be upset with his party joining hands with JDS in the civic body — cancelling his visit to Mysuru.

Congress and JDS joined hands to stop BJP from taking control of the Mysuru City Corporation in the mayoral polls last week. While JDS bagged the mayoral post, Congress settled for the deputy mayor's post, enraging local strongman Siddaramaiah.

Siddaramaiah had decided to visit Mysuru for two days from Monday and had planned to discuss the issue with his partymen. But he dropped his plans as he was upset with KPCC president D K Shivakumar and Narasimharaja MLA Tanveer Sait over the recent developments in his own backyard, sources said.

Though Siddaramaiah, who is in Delhi to attend the wedding of party general secretary Randeep Surjewala's son, was reportedly "consoled" by Congress General Secretary K C Venugopal and others, the Ahinda leader has continued to maintain a stoic silence.

Siddaramaiah is also hurt after Congress MLA Zameer Ahmed was told not to call him the next chief minister, sources added. Siddaramaiah was also allegedly advised by party leaders not to announce candidates for the upcoming bypolls without the nod of the party's election screening committee.

With the demand growing within Congress for suspending Sait for allegedly taking a decision in the mayoral polls, JDS leader and MLA Sa Ra Mahesh welcomed the MLA to join the regional party.

He said JDS was ready to continue the tie-up with Congress and give away the mayor seat to them as per the previous agreement after the corporation polls in 2018. "But remarks by Siddaramaiah against our party made us rethink the alliance. That is why, we did not commit anything to either BJP or Congress. Though we were offered the mayor's post by Congress leaders on the eve of the polls, we did not agree and decided to contest independently as chances of us winning the mayoral polls were high as three Independents, including M V Ramprasad, had agreed to come to JDS," he said.

"When we were informed that our leaders G T Devegowda and Sandesh Nagaraj would be absent from the polls, we asked our corporators to take a decision and this was the outcome. We wanted to show the strength of JDS to Siddaramaiah ... who had questioned the existence of our party," he said.

₹3,500-crore makeover for state highways

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AS the government is being flooded with complaints of state highways needing repairs, Deputy Chief Minister **Govind Karjol** on Sunday announced that the government is taking up a massive project to develop state highways at a cost of ₹3,500 crore.

With MLAs and MLCs complaining about the lack of good roads, especially in flood-hit parts of North Karnataka, Karjol said even those roads will be repaired.

He said that the project has been approved and once the DPAR gives its nod, tenders will be called and works will start. The State Highway Development Project has announced March 5 as the last date for selecting consultants and the tendering and e-procurement process will begin later, he added.

The focus will be the stretches that are used frequently. Isolated roads, even if they are in a bad condition, will be avoided for now, he said.

As it is pointed out that roads laid during monsoon months do not last, the department is aiming to finish off the works before June. If any work remains pending, it will be taken up only after September, he added.

Constituencies of BJP MLAs given preference in fund allocation: Oppn

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

DAYS before the budget session begins, Congress and JDS MLAs are complaining that their constituencies are being meted out step-motherly treatment in approving projects.

Bidar MLA and JDS deputy leader in the Assembly Bandeppa Kashempur said the situation has turned worse since the BJP came to power in the state. "Constituencies represented by BJP MLAs are being preferred in allocating projects, while we wait endlessly," he complained.

"At this rate, people from our constituents will come out in protest and assault us, out of sheer frustration. Normally, citizens raise complaints with their MLAs, who look for funds from the State Government to redress them. But over the last one year, none of our projects have got approved. It was not this bad during the previous Yediyurappa government in 2008."

At this rate, people from our constituents will come out in protest and assault us, out of sheer frustration. Normally, citizens raise complaints with their MLAs, who look for funds from the govt to redress them. But over the last one year, none of our projects have got approved

Bandeppa Kashempur, Bidar MLA

JDS state president H K Kumaraswamy, too, agreed that projects are not getting approved in constituencies represented by party MLAs.

Congress MLA from Shanthinagar, Bengaluru, N A Haris said, "There are 28 constituencies in the city. Those represented by BJP are getting more funds than those with JDS and Congress MLAs. One can see it in the BBMP records. The situation is frustrating. For example, the Public Works Department has accepted proposals worth ₹23.5 crore from BJP MLAs, but Congress and JDs MLAs have to be satisfied with projects worth a mere ₹10 crore. Even those do not get sanctioned all the time."

Jayanagar Congress MLA Sowmya Reddy said, "My constituency alone has seen a cut of 61 per cent, or ₹122 crore. When I go for inspection at the Epoch Complex, people keep asking me when will the works be completed. When I make phone calls to officers of departments concerned, they say there are no funds. People are not ready to accept excuses anymore. As bills have not been cleared, some contractors are asking me whether they should commit suicide."

Both Congress and JDS MLAs hope that justice will be done in the coming budget.

EXPRESS READ

Quota: Panchamasalis continue stir in Bengaluru

BENGALURU: The protest by Panchamsalis seeking inclusion in 2A category continued in Bengaluru's Freedom Park on Sunday with about 500 supporters sitting on a dharna. They have threatened to launch a hunger strike from March 4 if the State Government does not accept their demands. It may be recalled that minister Murugesh Nirani had slammed the protest seeking reservation as a 'Congress-led' agitation. But the protestors led by former MLA Vijayanand Kashappanavar have said that the agitation by them was a people's movement and not inspired by any party. ENS

Siddu to join protest by sheep and goat rearers

BENGALURU: Leader of Opposition in the Assembly and former chief minister Siddaramaiah will hit the streets to protest against the State Government for "ignoring the demands of sheep and goat rearers associations across the state", on Monday. They will gather in front of the Gandhi statue at Maurya Circle in Bengaluru from 11 am and scores of protestors from across the state are expected to take part in the agitation. Their main complaint is that the State Government has failed to address their list of grievances. ENS

CAMPAIGN MODE

It's poll states ahoy for K'taka BJP netas

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

THE BJP leaders from Karnataka have dived headlong into the campaigning for the poll-bound southern states. From strategising poll campaigns and holding seat-sharing talks to designing and organising rallies and scheduling public meetings they are taking the lead for the party.

From Union Minister Pralhad Joshi leading the attack on the Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF government in Kerala to party national general secretary **C T Ravi**, who is in charge of Tamil Nadu, spearheading seat-sharing talks with the ruling AIADMK, the party's leaders from Karnataka are leaving their imprint of the poll campaign in two states and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

While Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka, Rajeev Chandrashekhar, is overseeing the media outreach and campaign strategies in his capacity as the co-incharge for Puducherry assembly elections, Deputy Chief Minister Dr **C N Ashwath Narayan**, along with senior BJP legislators like Sunil Kumar, are busy boosting the cadres and organisational structure in Kerala.

On Sunday, C T Ravi was busy playing host to Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Tamil Nadu as the party picked up the pace with its poll campaign.

In Kerala, Pralhad Joshi trained his guns on the Pinarayi Vijayan government over the gold smuggling case. "Huge quantities of gold was smuggled. The Chief Minister's Office is directly involved in this," Joshi said at a poll campaign.

Meanwhile, back in Bengaluru, Deputy Chief Minister Ashwath Narayan was reaching out to Keralities living in the city, wooing them to shun the LDF-UDF alternative politics and give BJP a chance in Kerala.

The Telangana police are adopting the age-old and time-tested war tactic of cutting essential supplies to the Maoists from the state, in an attempt to gain an upper hand over them.

ISRO LAUNCHES BRAZIL'S AMAZONIA-1

18 other satellites also put into orbit; first commercial mission by NewSpace India Ltd

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched Brazil's Amazonia-1 and 18 co-passenger satellites onboard PSLV-C51 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at 10:24 am on Sunday. The launch has many firsts. It is the first dedicated PSLV commercial mission by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Department of Space. It is also the first time Brazil is launching its satellite on an Indian rocket. It is the first satellite that is completely designed, tested, integrated and operated by National Institute for Space Research (INPE) Brazil.

Amazonia-1 carries with it wide-field camera with 850 km swath and 60m resolution. It has two solar panels to charge its Lithium-Ion Batteries. The optical Earth observation satellite has a lifespan of more than four years.

It will be another satellite for Brazil to monitor the Amazon region and the deforestation therein. It will also help analyse diversified agriculture across Brazil.

Brazilian Minister for Science and Technology and Innovation Marcos Pontes said that many years have gone into building the satellite and the moment represented the pinnacle of all efforts by many from the National Institute of Space Research, Brazil and the Brazilian Space Agency.

ISRO Chairman K Sivan announced that PSLV-C51 successfully launched Amazonia-1 into the precise orbit. NSIL CMD Narayanan said that in the peak of Covid pandemic, the Indian space sector stepped over from the old to the new.

Amazonia-1 was the prime satellite. The 18 co-passenger satellites on board PSLV-C51 includes four from IN-SPACe and 14 from NSIL. NSIL carried one commercial satellite from India (SindhuNetra) and 13 from USA. Of the four satellites from IN-SPACe, three were the UNITYsat three-satellite cluster and one was Satish Dhawan Sat (SDSAT) from Space Kidz India.

All aboard

AMAZONIA-1
Prime satellite

18 co-passenger satellites on board PSLV-C51

4 from IN-SPACe

14 from NSIL

1 commercial satellite from India (SindhuNetra)

13 commercial saellites from USA

ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C51 lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Sunday

Hands full this year, says Sivan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

OUR hands are full this year, said Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K Sivan on Sunday. He was speaking at the launch of Amazonia-1, . Sivan said that ISRO has 14 missions lined up this year.

"As many as seven are launch vehicle missions and six are satellite missions. One is the unmanned Gaganyaan mission slated at the end of 2021," he said.

"ISRO will rise to the occasion and achieve these targets towards meeting national demands," he said.

Warning people that the pandemic was not over yet, he said that the work at the organisation would go on while maintaining all quality norms.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visits Arulmigu Nellaiyappar Temple in Tirunelveli on Sunday, during his election campaign ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly polls

'BJP rule has led to wealth disparity'

TUTICORIN: Disparity in wealth distribution has become much stronger during the BJP rule at the Centre, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claimed on Sunday.

On the second day of his tour of southern Tamil Nadu for poll campaign, the top Congress leader interacted with salt pan workers and said he empthaised with them when they narrated their travails, including health issues. When a woman worker sought government financial support for four months in a year, as during this period they would not have work in salt pans, he said the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance had an idea to tackle such an issue.

"When we were in government in the UPA we noticed that the wealth distribution in India was becoming very skewed," he said replying to the worker. While a few people were getting "very very rich," many were poor, he said.

"And now since the BJP has come (to power at the Centre) that has become much much stronger," he alleged.

The idea the party had to handle the problem of protecting the interests of workers for the period they did not have work was the "concept of a minimum income," the Nyay scheme for every single poor family in the country, he said.

Irrespective of factors like from which state they hailed or their language or religion, beneficiaries would automatically get Rs 72,000 a year in their bank accounts till such time they were out of poverty, he said.

Women workers flagged the issue of rampant alcohol addiction among the menfolk who spend their hard earned money on consuming liquor leaving their families in the lurch. They urged Gandhi to work for implementing complete prohibition.

Some others sought plots to build houses by utilising unused sites owned by the Centre's salt department in the region. *Agencies*

Students are monitoring, controlling satellites, says university

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE satellite was developed after PES University was awarded a Rs 2.2 crore contract by the Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat, which is part of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The students belong to the R-SAT team of PES, who are now monitoring and controlling the satellite, said a release by the university. "As many as 13 students, who have now graduated, were given a stipend and employed under the project. Additionally, 50 other students helped in design, and the projects identified for them," Rao said, adding that the work had been in progress for three years.

Sushma Shankarappa, a final-year PhD student from PES University, told *TNIE* that it was a great experience with former ISRO scientists, both within and outside the institute, guiding them throughout the design, fabrication and testing of antennas for the micro-satellite.

It was her first experience with a satellite. "We used the software available at the university to design the antennas. Fabrication required us to procure the equipment, which I did the with help from professors who are former ISRO scientists," said Sushma, who hails from Tumakuru.

Prof M R Doreswamy, adviser to the Karnataka government on educational reforms and chancellor of PES University, hailed the staffers and students involved in the designing of the micro-satellite, while pointing out that the day coincided with National Science Day.

ISRO Chairman K Sivan termed Sunday's launch as 'special' as it fell under the ambit of the recently announced new space reforms that allowed ISRO to hand-hold private players in developing their satellites, and there were students directly involved in at least four of them. "ISRO hand-held them to ensure satellites are built correctly and launched precisely," Sivan said after the launch. He hoped that this will encourage many others — including students — to build and launch their satellites with ISRO.

TAKEN BY SURPRISE

'Iron Man' robbed of mobile by 3 teenagers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

'IRON Man' **Arjun Iyengar** (47), who was out on a morning walk, was attacked and robbed by three scooter-borne teenagers near Bashyam Circle at Sadashivanagar around 6 am on Saturday.

One of the three teenagers pushed him, while another grabbed his high-end mobile phone and fled on a waiting scooter, which was kept running by the third person. A bruised and shaken Arjun filed a complaint with Sadashivanagar police, who have launched a hunt for the accused. The police suspect them to be professionals considering their modus operandi.

Arjun is a techie who works in the healthcare sector and stays in the US. He, his wife and two children are on a visit to Bengaluru, his hometown.

Arjun has completed one of the world's most gruelling sports, the 'Iron Man' triathlon, multiple times. The race includes a 42 km run, 180 km of bicycling and 3.5 km of swimming. The latest race he took part in was two years ago, which he completed in about 16 hours. He has completed the Iron Man four times and half-Iron Man 12 times.

He has visited around 50 countries. Though he has been to some of the most dangerous countries in the world, including Rio De Janeiro and Brasilia in Brazil, he has never once been mugged or robbed.

He said that when the teenagers snatched his phone, he fell, but recovered immediately. When he started chasing them, they hit an obstacle on the road, lost balance, but regained control and sped away. Arjun said, "I would advise those getting robbed not to resist, because you don't know if the attackers are armed."

His sister Vandana Harish, who too stays in the US but is in Bengaluru now, said, "I am surprised that my brother who is super tough could be mugged."

Kalasa-Banduri: Karnataka names official for joint team

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

SIX days after the Supreme Court ordered the formation of a Joint Inspection Committee to investigate whether the Karnataka government had diverted Mandovi water under the Mahadayi project, violating court's orders, the Karnataka government has nominated a senior engineer to represent it on the committee. At the same time, the Karnataka government has written to heads of the Water Resources Departments in Maharashtra and Goa to immediately nominate their members to the committee.

Despite Karnataka's assertion that it has never diverted water from Mandovi river via Kalasa nala at Kankumbi, on the Goa border, the Goa government had filed a contempt petition in the apex court against Karnataka for breach of court orders.

Rakesh Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Water Resources Department, said in a letter to his counterparts in Maharashtra and Goa that Krishnoji Rao, Superintending Engineer, Malaprabha Left Bank Canal Circle, Naviluteertha, Belagavi, has been nominated to the Joint Inspection Committee. Dyamannavar R B, Superintending Engineer, GRBC Circle, Hidkal, has been nominated by the State Government as Nodal Officer to coordinate with the Joint Inspection Committee during its visit to the Mahadayi project site.

"It is suggested that the team may take up the visit in the first or second week of March. The officials nominated by Maharashtra and Goa to the committee are advised to contact the Nodal Officer for taking further needful action in this regard," the letter said. The Water Resources Department had recently held a meeting in Bengaluru along with legal experts and senior officials to discuss measures to be taken to expedite the cases related to irrigation projects in the Supreme Court.

The State Government woke up only after some legal experts from Karnataka in the Supreme Court expressed discontent over the continued callousness of the government to prepare itself to face the court cases seriously. "Although the contention of the Goa government that water was illegally diverted by Karnataka under the Mahadayi project is totally baseless, we (Karnataka) suffered the setback as we were not prepared to fight the case seriously," a noted Supreme Court advocate from Karnataka had recently told *TNIE*.

Water Resources Department sources are confident that the Kalasa-Banduri project will gain pace once the Joint Inspection Committee visits the project site.

Senior Supreme Court advocate representing Karnataka in the Mahadayi issue, Mohan Katarki, also has asked the state to strengthen its legal teams.

EXPRESS READ

CID to probe charges against ex-top cop

Chennai: The Crime Branch-CID (CB-CID) of the Tamil Nadu police has been tasked with investigating the allegations of sexual harassment against former special Director General of Police, Rajesh Das. An order to this effect was issued on Saturday, sources in the DGP's office said.

Domestic worker stabbed to death over financial dispute

Bengaluru: A 35-year-old woman was stabbed to death over a financial dispute in Brookefield on Sunday. The deceased, Aleema Bibi, a domestic worker, lived with her family in Kundalahalli. The incident took place around 10.30 am, when Aleema was walking to work. The accused, Rafiq, confronted her and demanded that she pay back the money she owed him. This led to a a quarrel between the two. Enraged, Rafiq pulled out a knife and stabbed her before fleeing. Rafiq is at large and police are looking for him. **ENS**

206 iPhones worth ₹2.75 crore seized from US couple at KIA

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

AS MANY as 206 latest models of iPhones were seized by customs officials from a couple, both US citizens, at the Kempegowda International Airport, on Saturday. A car waiting at the airport to take this consignment to Hyderabad by road was also seized by the Air Intelligence unit, sources said.

The couple, who had arrived at 3.30 am from Paris, has been arrested and produced in court. They are remanded in judicial custody till March 12.

An official said, "This is the biggest seizure of phones we have ever done. The phones were the iPhone 12 Pro and Pro Max models and their total value is Rs 2, 74,19,400. Scanning of their check-in baggage resulted in the seizure. A total of 37 debit and credit cards used in the purchase have also been seized."

Another official said the man was 50 years old and the woman 42. On February 13, they had both travelled from Mumbai to the US to buy the consignment there and had used the cards, he added. A car, a Maruti Ertiga, waiting at the airport parking area to ship this consignment by road to Hyderabad, was seized under Section 115 of Indian Customs Act 1962.

The iPhones that were seized by Customs officials at KIA, in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

Over 1 kg gold found on flyer

In another incident on Saturday, a 25-year-old flyer from Dubai, was caught smuggling 1 kg and 22 grams (1022 grams) of gold in the form of paste in his underwear. The Kozhikode native, had arrived by Emirates EK 564 flight to Bengaluru at 8.50 am, when he was caught based on profiling and frisking.

DHFL Changing Rules. Changing Lives

DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED (DHFL)
National Office: HDIL Tower, Ground Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra East, Mumbai – 400 051.
Branch Office: Bangalore Majestic Branch

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property)

Under Section 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act and under Rule-8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Whereas The undersigned is an Authorised Officer of **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rules 3, 8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 15.09.2020 under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the followings:

1. **Excel Dwelling Oxigen Pvt. Ltd.,** No. 44, 12th Main, 17th Cross, 6th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560 102 **(Borrower/Mortgagor)**
2. **Excel Dwelling India Pvt. Ltd.,** No. 44, 12th Main, 17th Cross, 6th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560 102 **(Borrower/Mortgagor) Excel Dwelling**
3. **Mr. Vivekananda Revaiah,** 243, 10th Cross, NGEF Layout, Nagarbhavi, Nrupathunga Nagar, Bangalore - 560072 **(Guarantor/Director)**
4. **Mr. Giri Tallaru,** Plot No. IV A, Sri Ram Shelters, CCS Nagar, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh - 524004 **(Guarantor)**
5. **Mr. Sivarama Krisna Reddy Allu,** Flat No. B404, Mantri Elegance, Bannerghatta Road, Oracle Shoppers Stop, Bangalore, 560076 **(Guarantor/Director)**
6. **Mr. Venkateswarlu Vaigundla,** 4/732, Usmansahebpeta, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh- 524002 **(Guarantor/Director)**
7. **Mr. Mohammed Meraj,** No. 82, 2nd Block, Hosur Road, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034 **(Guarantor/Director of Excel Dwelling India Pvt. Ltd)**
8. **Mr. Sridhara Reddy Mummareddy,** 45, New Balaji Colony, MR Palle, Tirupati-517502 **(Guarantor/ Director of Excel Dwelling India Pvt. Ltd)**

For Loan Account Code No. 0006097 of Bangalore Majestic Branch to repay the amount outstanding, as mentioned in the notice, of Rs. 99,79,09,600/- (Rupees Ninety Nine Crores Seventy Nine Lakhs Nine Thousand Six Hundred Only) as on 14/09/2020, with any further interest, non -compliance charges, incidental expenses, costs and any other charges etc., as may accrue from 15/09/2020 till the date of repayment of liability in full, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the abovementioned demand notice.

The Borrower, Guarantors and Mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, Guarantor, Mortgagors and public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below on this date 25/02/2021 in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said rules.

The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property described herein below and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of DHFL, for an amount Rs.99,79,09,600/- (Rupees Ninety Nine Crores Seventy Nine Lakhs Nine Thousand Six Hundred Only) as on 14/09/2020, with any further interest, non -compliance charges, incidental expenses, costs and any other charges etc., as may accrue from 15/09/2020 till the date of repayment of liability in full of the Loan Account Code No. 0006097 of Bangalore Majestic Branch.

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Exclusive charge by way of Registered Memorandum Deposit of Title Deeds of all that piece & parcels of the land bearing at Survey No. 68/1, 68/2, 68/3,68/4, 69/2,91, 92, 93, 95,96,97/1,97/2, 97/3,97/4 & 98/1, Gudighattanahalli Village, Sarjapura, Hobli ,Anekal Taluka, Bangalore , in all admeasuring 47 Acres and 23 Gunthas along with present and Future unsold construction thereon, which are mortgaged with DHFL more particularly mentioned in Schedule of Demand Notice dated 15.09.2020.

(Please note that the units constructed in project "Oxigen" for which DHFL has issued NOCs for sale/lease, may be excluded from the list of Section 13 (2) Notice dated 15/09/2020, on production of copies of the NOCs of DHFL along with proofs in respect of payment made to DHFL and compliances of all other terms and conditions stipulated therein)

Please Note that under sub-section (13) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act the Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors are barred from transferring and/or dealing with any of the Secured Asset(s) described above by way of sale, lease or otherwise, without obtaining prior written consent of DHFL and non-compliance of the said provisions of the SARFAESI Act is an offence punishable under Section 29 of the SARFAESI Act.

As per Rule 3 (5) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 we hereby draw your attention to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act under which the Borrower has right to redeem the "Secured Assets" by tendering the amount of dues of the secured creditor at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets.

This notice is issued without prejudice to DHFL's rights and remedies available to it under all other Acts and the same shall not be construed as waiver of any of them. DHFL also reserves its right to raise further demands for the sums found due and payable by the Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors to DHFL. Please note that the Flats/Units constructed in project "Oxigen" for which DHFL has issued NOCs for sale/lease, may be excluded from the list mentioned hereinabove, on production of copies of the NOCs of DHFL along with proofs in respect of payment made to DHFL and compliances of all other terms and conditions stipulated therein.

All correspondence pertaining to this notice must be addressed to The Authorised Officer, Project Finance Division, HDIL Tower, Anant Kanekar Marg, Station Road, Bandra (East) Mumbai 400051.

Sd/-
(Authorised officer)
DEWAN HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED

Date : 01/03/2021
Place : Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the Property mentioned and described in the Schedule hereunder from its present Owner, **Rajnish Gopinath** son of Sri. M.V Gopinath ("Owner"). The Owner represents and warrants that he is in possession of the Schedule Property and has good marketable, right, title and interest therein and there are no other person's having any right or claim over the Schedule Property and he has not entered into any Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding etc. with any third party. The Owner further represents that he has lost/misplaced the below mentioned original Agreements pertaining to the Schedule Property.

A) Share Purchase Agreement dated 10/12/1991, executed by Mrs. Nita P. Nebwani in favour of Mr. Rajnish Gopinath,

B) Membership Agreement dated 23/03/1991 executed by M/s. Amber Constructions Private Limited in favour of Mrs. Nita P. Nebhwani.

It is represented to the Undersigned that the Owner has not mortgaged, created any lien, or encumbered the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner to any person/s or pledged the aforementioned original Agreements as security to any loans / borrowings to any banks/financial institutions / third parties / Govt. Statutory Department. Any person/s having objections or claims or who are in possession of the original Agreements mentioned above, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection(s)/claim(s) within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this notice with the Undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Office unit bearing No 304, having PID No. 76-22-6/15 situated at the third floor facing east direction measuring super-built-up area of 550 sq. ft. inclusive of proportionate share of common areas together with right of Car parking of the building known as "Embassy Chambers" at No.5 (old no 6/1) Grant/Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore - 560001, and bounded on the

East by : 16 ft. wide common passage exclusively meant for the owners of Premises No.6 & 6/1 Grant Road,
West by : Premises No.7, Grant Road,
North by : Grant Road
South by : Premises No.6. Grant Road, belonging to Sri. Oriff Ahmed

Place : Bengaluru; Date : 27/02/2021

Jayanth M. Pattanshetti, Advocate
102, Ground Floor, "Rams Infantry Manor", Infantry Road, Bangalore-01.
Ph: 25593195/41238516

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the Property mentioned and described in the Schedule herunder from its present Owner, **Rajnish Gopinath** son of Sri. M.V Gopinath ("Owner"). The Owner represents and warrants that he in in possession of the Schedule Property and has good marketable, right, title and interest therein and there are no other person's having any right or claim over the Schedule Property and he has not entered into any Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding etc. with any third party. The Owner further represents that he has lost/misplaced the below mentioned original Agreement pertaining to the Schedule Property.

1. Share Purchase Agreement dated 12/08/1992 executed by Embassy Constructions Pvt Ltd. In favour of Mr. Rajnish Gopinath.

It is represented to the Undersigned that the Owner has not mortgaged, created any lien or encumbered the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner to any person/s or pledged the aforementioned original Agreement as security to any loans/borrowings to any banks/financial institutions / third parties / Govt. Statutory Department. Any person/s having objections or claims or who are in possession of the original Agreement mentioned above, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection(s)/claim(s) within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this notice with the Undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the office unit bearing No. 303, having PID No.76-22-6/14 situated at the third floor facing East direction measuring super-built-up area of 560 sq.ft. inclusive of proportionate share of common areas together with right of Car parking of the building known as "Embassy Chambers" at No.5 (old no. 6/1) Grant/Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore-560001, and bounded on the

East by : 16ft wide common passage exclusively meant for the owners of Premises No.6 & 6/1 Grant Road,
West by : Premises No.7, Grant Road,
North by : Grant Road,
South by : Premises No 6, Grant Road, belonging to Sri. Oriff Ahmed.

Place : Bengaluru, Date : 27/02/2021

Jayanth M. Pattanshetti, Advocate
102, Ground Floor, "Rams Infantry Manor" Infantry Road, Bangalore-01.
Ph: 25593195 / 41238516

EDITORIAL

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world — Anne Frank

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

TRUCE FIRST STEP TOWARDS INDO-PAK PEACE TALKS

For a country that had uneasy relationships with its neighbours till some time ago, India has managed to reset them at a breathtaking pace. While its global vaccine donations earned plaudits and helped smoothen some wrinkles with countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh, the bigger gains came from coercive diplomacy on the frontiers with China and Pakistan. At a time when security experts were still trying to process the rapid troop pullback by both sides at Pangong lake on the India-China border in Ladakh, a joint India-Pakistan statement committing themselves to observe the 2003 ceasefire pact along their volatile border sprang a huge surprise. Pakistan has since been doing contortions trying to explain away the gesture to its dumbstruck nation and the terrorist dens it nurtures, saying nothing has changed at all. The truce came ahead of summer when the melting snow facilitates pushing terrorists parked in launch pads across the Line of Control into India. Without the cover of Pakistan's border shelling, LoC infiltration this time around would be that much more difficult.

While the powerful Pakistan army had torpedoed peace overtures by its political leaderships in the past, both sides appear to be on the same page now. After its army chief first blew the peace bugle, Prime Minister Imran Khan picked up the thread and expanded on the theme during his recent visit to Sri Lanka. In a strikingly conciliatory tone, he said Kashmir was the only friction point with India, which could be settled through UN resolutions and dialogue, pointing out that the bonds of trade had decisively resolved conflicts in the European Union. He has since calibrated his nuancing for his home audience.

While there are no clear explanations for the easing of border tensions, multiple geopolitical factors appear to be at play, including the new US presidency and international lenders to Pakistan. Anyway, peace finally has a chance as the ceasefire is the first step towards setting up a talks table. Imran may hate to admit it, but he has just gifted a talking point to the BJP on robust nationalism eventually creating a quieter border, in the run-up to the summer elections in four states and a Union Territory.

THE LARGER TRAGEDY OF SIVAKASI

Sivakasi hits the headlines every time there is a firecracker industry accident. Outrage overflows on media, and so does news on generous compensation being doled out. In the past decade, at least 145 accidents have been reported in the fireworks units in Sivakasi, three this month alone. Yet, governments, administrations, and the judiciary have not been able to do much in reducing the multi-pronged risks that poverty-struck labourers have to face while at work.

One, the system has collectively failed to address the problem of accountability. Unlicensed units continue to mushroom and flourish across the region. In many cases, factories are owned by one person, taken on lease by a second, and workers engaged by a third. In the case of a recent accident, which claimed over 20 lives, the licence holder for the factory in this Southern Tamil Nadu industrial hub, is a Nagpur-based firm. Not much has been done to fix this flaw.

Two, labour conditions in these units are a gross violation of basic human rights. Workers are made to slog for about 12 hours, without sufficient breaks, and paid measly wages. Child labour persists, despite claims of it having been completely abolished. The occupational hazards of handling toxic chemicals that go into the fireworks without adequate safety gear is another pressing issue. And yet, despite it being a prerequisite in the Labour Law, workers at these units are not insured.

In short, while the unit owners openly flout every norm in the book, resulting in the loss of lives and livelihoods, it's the government and the taxpayer who are funding the measures to deal with the aftermath of such tragedies. Accidents are merely a symptom of a larger malaise ailing the firecracker industry in Tamil Nadu, which has hardly seen a technology impetus or significantly new production models in the past several decades. The focus of policymakers must be on fixing these gaps by introducing new technologies and insisting on workers' safety. Trying to merely avoid accidents is not a sustainable solution.

Govt needs to distinguish between real threats to the nation and commonplace rebelliousness. Arresting all and sundry on charges as serious as sedition will boomerang

DISHA RAVI: 2 MINS OF FAME OR SOMETHING SERIOUSLY AMISS?

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE
Director, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. Views are personal

SOUMYADIP SINHA

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

I suppose it is pointless to ask who Disha Ravi is. Or what is the toolkit for which she's in trouble. Instead, the question really is whether the Disha Ravi phenomenon is as innocent as it seems to some or as sinister as it sounds to others?

Is it just about youthful idealism and healthy dissent? Or is it part of a global conspiracy to defame and destabilise India? Coming to the infamous toolkit, does one of its objectives, "Disrupt 'yoga & chai' image of India in general" mean much more than what meets the eye? Do "yoga & chai" actually stand for Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

I hesitate to jump to quick conclusions because I suspect we shall never know conclusively. Moreover, a part of me is always 21 or 22 years old. Or, to put it even more strikingly in the words of a famous Bryan Adams's number, "18 till I die".

That is because 18-21 is the average age of every new batch of undergraduate/postgraduate students joining our universities. During my nearly 40 years of teaching such students, what has never failed to strike me in a fresh batch is the spark of some idealism, the desire to fight for a bigger cause, or simply the urge to make the world a better place.

A commitment to justice and equality is what our youth have in common with those in the more advanced countries of the world. Hence, the natural bonding between these two groups of young change makers. Especially in this day and age of virtual communities, which can be more closely bonded than real neighbourhoods. It is easier to find common cause on the Internet and social media than it is to organise youth in your own locality, city or state.

The temptation of easy activism with maximum impact, not to speak of rewards, is rampant. The metamorphosis of young idealists into activists is only to be expected, but, alas, it is not always innocuous or normal. There is an elaborate mechanism of spotting, recruiting, indoctrinating, training, deploying, and incentivising.

Gradually, the novice is both radicalised and professionalised into becoming what our Prime Minister called 'andolan jeevi'. The phrase, although somewhat facetious, if controversial, has a double meaning. It can signify those who live to protest and those for whom protest is a livelihood. That is, professional protestors or paid protestors. No wonder, there are pictures in circulation on social media of protestors protesting because they were not paid as promised to protest.

The recruitment of activists is an outcome of carefully chosen criteria, such as caste, community, social background, gender, looks, and of course individual familial or communal sensitivity or vulnerability. Unfortunately, from my experience at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, what is sadder is the betrayal of ideals, the hard and calculating cynicism, and the sometimes sorry end that some of these campaigners come to. Several of them trade their idealism for calculated social, political or even monetary considerations.

> The temptation of easy activism with maximum impact, not to speak of rewards, is rampant. The metamorphosis of young idealists into activists is only to be expected, but, alas, it is not always innocuous or normal. There is an elaborate mechanism of spotting, recruiting, indoctrinating, training, deploying, and incentivising

My worry is that instant fame, promoted stardom, and fake heroism can be all too attractive baits to trap and scam the youth. For every Disha Ravi who has made international headlines, there are many who lose precious time and best years of their youth in futile or foolish pursuits. Trapped in false narratives and fake ideologies, instead of acquiring the competence, education, or skills to contribute something meaningful to the world as well as earn decent and honest living for themselves, they end up with little to show for their wasted years.

This brings us to the role of the state, which needs to distinguish between real threats to the nation and commonplace rebelliousness. Of course, there is a grey area in between. In fact, even known agitators, promoted or sponsored though by national or international networks, need not be targeted or suppressed ham-handedly or indiscriminately.

Arresting all and sundry on charges as serious as sedition will only boomerang. Not only will it make such malcontents overnight sensations, it will also bring disrepute to our laws and enforcement agencies. While it is important not to play into the hands of those who are maligning Indian democracy abroad, it is also vital not to encourage those who would be happy living in an authoritarian state simply because the authorities happen to be on their side.

What might be more effective is to put into the public domain information, following meticulous investigation, about who these hidden persuaders are. Exposing their power as well as the proven collusion between them and the activists they sponsor will better discredit both. In addition, it will deflect blame from the state or its agencies for unnecessary and excessive force to curb protests.

To come back to Disha, where will she be five years from now? If our experience of fly-by-night heroes or sheroes is anything to go by, she too will disappear from public memory. Unless her passion for change is matched by knowledge and perseverance. It is not that easy fame and cheap publicity are not attractive. But they have to be backed up with real accomplishments and contributions to the world.

On my part, I am happy that she has been released from police custody. I hope this proves to be a positive lesson for her and other youth activists.

(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

SEXUALITY AND SEXUAL WELLNESS DURING PANDEMIC

DR DEBANJAN BANERJEE
Psychiatrist, NIMHANS, Bengaluru

DR N VYJAYANTHI VENKATARAMU
Consultant Psychiatrist, Spectrum Diagnostics and Healthcare, Bengaluru

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected developed and developing countries equally. SMS (Social distancing, Masking and Sanitisation) has been recommended by all public health agencies. There is adequate awareness about the physical health (symptoms and complications) and, to some extent, about the psychological aspects (stress, anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances, etc). However, amid the information overload, we have forgotten to focus on our sexual wellness, which has been compromised in many ways. Social distancing, fear of infection and panic — hasn't it all affected sexual practices and sexuality?

Sexuality is an imminent part of physical, emotional and social wellbeing of a person. It can comprise sexual identity, sexual preferences, sexual relationships, sexual knowledge and a society that affirms sexual needs. The emotional and sexual dimensions of a relationship go hand-in-hand, problems in one will eventually spill over to the other. In the past year, we have heard people reporting poor quality of sexual experiences when exposed to prolonged stress, especially the frontliners. Sexual wellbeing also encompasses knowing your sexual rights, right to consent, having sexual boundaries, and embracing sexuality positively. If a person is sexually uncomfortable, scared or frustrated, it will lead to emotional distancing, wanting out of the relationship and in some extreme cases, being coerced into sexual acts unwillingly amounting to sexual violence. We have all seen that the periods of lockdown have led to an unprecedented rise in domestic abuse and sexual coercion.

In our country, sex and sexuality are taboo topics, often stigmatised and not openly discussed. Sex education is often neglected, which form a vital component of safety and respect for the opposite gender. When we say sexual health, it encompasses relationships, marriage, childbearing, intimacy and an entire family life. The pandemic has affected it in more ways than one. Consciously or unconsciously, people have got accustomed to 'masking', and under the masked faces are those craving for love, a smile and a hug. The inability to hold your loved ones, with the fear and guilt of spreading a deadly disease generates anxiety and avoidance. This is a paradox, between desire and fear of close contact. It has specific implications for frontline workers with more exposure, those having long distance marriages or relationships. The home-visits have become brief, more unusually spaced and bound by restrictions. Social distancing has progressed to a form of 'emotional distancing' as well. Though sexual abstinence is an easy solution and a 'personal choice', it might not always be possible. 'Social touch' is a well-known concept in psychology which, if deprived, can have adverse physical and psychological consequences.

The lockdown, work from home and social distancing mandates increased home time. On the one hand, this has been beneficial to enrich family bonding and 'us-time' for couples, which was long over due. On the other, existing marital discord and long-term entrapment with partners have led to criticism, violence (from spouse or family) and coercive sexual practices. Research has also shown increase in unprotected sex during the Covid-19 period resulting in unplanned pregnancies and abortions that impact maternal and child health.

> Adequately respecting the sexual needs of oneself and one's partner, initiating safe sexual practices and discussing mutual consent are vital to enriching relationships during the pandemic

We are kind of lucky to face the pandemic in the 21st century, where technology allows us to stay in touch with our loved ones though digitally, which to some extent gives us a feeling of connectedness. However, video calls do not allow us to have intimacy and sexual relations in the traditional ways. With changing times, cybersex, sex toys, and pornography have been tried mutually by many couples, with different grades of sexual satisfaction. However, sexual practices on a virtual platform also carry risks of online extortion, cyber-crimes and cyber-bullying, especially for the young population. This can impact the way a person views sex.

The explorers of relationships, who were to find a partner, actively dating, looking out for casual relationships, etc are all looking out for more intimate relationships which involve meeting in person. The fear of close contact with unknown people or blind dates have now turned from previously adventurous to current fearful moments. 'Should I or Should I not' is a mind-boggling dilemma that seems never-ending. The inability to have something as simple as intimacy can be frustrating. Intimacy or sexuality is not just about physical pleasure, but also involves emotional bonding, busting stress and coping during these trying times.

Respecting the sexual needs of oneself and one's partner, initiating safe sexual practices and discussing mutual consent are vital to enriching relationships during the pandemic. It is important to discuss one's needs and desires openly with the partner, figure out mutually acceptable ways to enhance the quality of the relationship. Simple ways like involving in activities together, focusing on exercise and nutrition, and expressing intimacy through hugging, kissing etc help. Professional help can be sought in case of sexual problems or issues in relationships. Gender-respect is vital and it prevents sexual violence. Digital sex needs caution and safety. While the infection-precautions need to be followed, having a safe and healthy sexual life is equally important. The pandemic provides us a more chance to revisit that.

(drdjan88@gmail.com. Views and opinions expressed are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect that of their employers)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Exposing double standards

Thank you for your bold article *Speaking to power from inside and outside* (Feb 27) exposing the double standards of our ruling party as well as opposition leaders. The previous government was worried about public anger but the present one is not at all bothered as they think they can rule the country for another 25 years.
V O Harindranathan, Chennai

Constructive criticism

I found your piece well written where logic preceded emotions. I am yet to come across a decent constructive criticism of the Narendra Modi government in any other newspaper. Other writers get overwhelmed by emotions and end up imposing their prejudices on the reader.
Subrata Chakrabarti, T'Puram

Emotional outburst

When an emotional outburst against the establishment is made out, reality becomes the victim. Activists like Disha Ravi knew very well what they were doing – whipping up tension through misinformation campaign. There is a need for tabs against such activists and pseudo-seculars in India, who are promoting the agenda of outside forces.
S Lakshmi

Disha verdict stands out

I agree with the author that an otherwise normal court verdict of granting bail to an accused became an occasion for celebration (*Speaking to power from inside and outside* (Feb 27). This is because a series of court verdicts in the recent past related to Ram Janmabhoomi, CAA, withdrawal of special powers to J&K, etc were in favour of the Central government but the ruling to grant bail to activist Disha Ravi was a departure from that trend.
N A Joseph, Ettumanoor

Drawing wrong parallel

I don't understand why columnist T J S George chose to draw parallels between a sweeper-turned panchayat president in Kerala and UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath (*Anandavalli Differs from Adityanath*, Feb 28). The writer, using his journalistic rights, usually trains his pens on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was once a humble tea vendor. It is no surprise that Anandavalli, a sweeper, became a panchayat president in Modi's land. A parallel on that line would have been more fitting.
Sanath Kumar T S, Thrissur

Democracy vs dictatorship

In democracy, the majority (not majority community) rules. But in dictatorship, it is always the minority that rules. That does not imply minority viewpoints are mediocre or substandard. The author's apprehensions and comparisons are too far-fetched and prejudiced (*Anandavalli Differs from Adityanath*, Feb 28).
Not long ago, people from the lower communities were denied access to barber shops in certain places in Kerala. It was the intervention of the so-called 'right-wing people' that set the things right.
Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery

G23 has no credibility

This is with reference to *Why not use Azad's services to unite Cong, ask dissenters* (Feb 28). Members of G23 say they are working to strengthen the weakened Congress party. In the same breath, they express displeasure over Ghulam Nabi Azad being denied renomination to the Rajya Sabha. The group will lose credibility if it fails to distinguish between strengthening the party and getting Azad renominated because one need not be an RS member to work for strengthening the party.
Hemanth Bhide, Mangaluru

Ineffective high command

The Congress party's decline is due to the so-called party high command's inability to do serious introspection and do the needful to arrest further degeneration. The demands of the Group-23 stalwarts, who have been sidelined, are just. Without robust inner-party democracy, the party won't be able to recover.
V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
GOI has turned noble professions like farming, education & healthcare into financial commodities for the benefit of a few cronies.

Sanjay Jha @JhaSanjay
Those criticising the "timing" of G-23 expressing concerns about the Congress miss the point: there is no wrong time to do the right thing.

Kanhaiya Kumar @KanhaiyaKumar
The 'dealer' cleverly hides the talk of commission in the name of Mann Ki Baat so that he does not have to talk about #JobKiBaat and #KisanKiBaat.

'Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign a national spirit'

In his monthly radio address, PM Modi regrets not learning 'world's oldest language' Tamil

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign was not just a government policy but a national spirit, a sentiment flowing in the hearts of the common folks.

In his monthly radio address, Mann ki Baat, the PM lauded the huge contribution of science towards making India self-reliant an achievable dream. "Today is National Science Day. It is dedicated to the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by Dr CV Raman. Our youth should read a lot about Indian scientists and understand the history of Indian science. The contribution of science is huge in Atmanirbhar Bharat," the PM said and stressed the need to make science more popular. It cannot be limited to physics-chemistry and labs, he said, and called for expanding science with a mantra of 'Lab to Land'. "When every citizen feels proud of indigenous products and connects with the idea of self-reliance, then Atmanirbhar Bharat does not just remain an economic programme but becomes the national spirit," he said.

Modi expressed happiness that the mantra of self-reliant India is reaching the villages and cited several examples of people from small towns and villages using innovative techniques to emerge as shining examples of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Seeking to woo the electorate in Tamil Nadu, where assembly elections are due in April, the Prime Minister regretted that he could not make much effort to learn Tamil, the world's oldest language. He said he had been asked by a listener as to whether there was something he felt he had missed out on during his long years as prime minister and earlier, Gujarat chief minister.

I could not make myself learn Tamil. It is such a beautiful language which is popular all over the world. Many people have told me a lot about the quality of Tamil literature and the depth of the poems written in it

Narendra Modi, PM

"I pondered this over and told myself...I could not make myself learn Tamil! It is such a beautiful language which is popular all over the world. Many people have told me a lot about the quality of Tamil literature and the depth of the poems written in it. India is a land of many languages, which symbolises our culture and pride," he said.

Stressing the importance of collective responsibility towards water conservation, Modi said, "In most parts of India, rainfall begins in May-June. Can we right away start a 100-day campaign for cleaning up water sources around us and conserving rainwater? With this very thought in mind, in a few days from now, Catch The Rain is being initiated by the Jal Shakti Ministry," Prime Minister Modi said.

Beneficiaries will not know type of jab they get

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

THE registration for Covid-19 vaccination for specific groups of citizens begins from 9 am on Monday but beneficiaries will not have a choice to know the type of vaccine available at a particular vaccination centre at the time of online registration.

A nationwide scaleup of Covid-19 vaccination drive is beginning from Monday under which people above 60 years and those between 45-59 with specific comorbidities will be covered. In a guidance note on CoWin2.0 shared with the states, the Centre said that "vaccine type available at a CVC (Covid vaccination centre) will not be displayed to the citizens at the time of online registration" but added that jabs can be taken either by pre-booking slot or walking in at designated centres.

A CVC shall usually have only one type of vaccine throughout the vaccination drive, the document added, this is necessary to avoid mixing of vaccine types in 1st and 2nd dose of a beneficiary. The clarification comes even as sources have indicated that in the beginning, only Covishield is likely to be available at private hospitals for which beneficiaries will require to pay Rs 250 per dose.

There are 10,000 hospitals empanelled under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, nearly 600 empanelled under the Central Government Health Scheme, those under state health insurance scheme apart from various levels of government facilities where the vaccinations will be carried out.

Meanwhile, in an orientation workshop organised by the Union Health Ministry and the National Health Authority, private hospitals were informed that there will be only one live appointment for a beneficiary at any point of time for each dose.

Covid vaccine jab capped at ₹250 At Private Hospitals: Government - understand vaccine cos (companies) feel betrayed as price is too low to sustain

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, executive chairperson, Biocon

Loss to be adjusted from Covid fund

Price gap that the companies are facing now could be made up from the fund of `35,000 crore that the Centre has allocated for vaccine this year. The Centre had procured Covishield at `200 per dose and Covaxin at `295 per dose.

Vaccine makers upset over price cap

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Covid-19 vaccine makers disgruntled with the capping of vaccine cost at ₹250 per dose in private hospitals are likely to be subsidised by the government, this newspaper has learnt. The amount and details of the subsidy, however, are yet to be worked out.

As per the agreed terms finalised on Saturday, while ₹150, of ₹125 beneficiaries pay per shot in private hospitals, will go to the vaccine companies, hospitals will get ₹100 for every jab administered.

In government health facilities, the vaccine will be given to beneficiaries without any charge. Sources in the Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech said they had agreed to the terms but are not happy with it. "The government is procuring the vaccines first and for every shot administered, hospitals have to pay ₹150 to the National Health Authority upfront," said a source in one of the vaccine manufacturers.

"Also this low price has been imposed without any competition here—for example, there are not many Covid-19 vaccines to choose from," he rued but added that companies have been assured that they will be subsidised but how is not clear yet.

The government had earlier procured Covishield from SII at the cost of ₹200 per dose and Covaxin from Bharat Biotech at the cost of ₹295 per dose for the first phase of the drive which covered only healthcare and frontline workers.

A senior official in the ministry meanwhile said that the price gap that the companies are facing now could be made up from the fund of ₹35,000 crore that the Centre has allocated for Covid19 vaccine this year.

Meanwhile, neither SII, nor Bharat Biotech made any comments publicly on the vaccine pricing but they got a shot in the arm with Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, executive chairperson, Biocon on Sunday strongly criticised the price cap fixed by the Union government.

Vaccine companies feel betrayed by the low-price cap which is "too low to sustain," she said.

Environ ministry to evaluate contested coastal projects

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

IN a move to regularise projects that commenced without mandatory prior approval in sensitive coastal areas, the Union Environment Ministry has decided to start the process of appraisal of all such cases of violations under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification.

The ministry chose to bank upon court judgements to allow projects in violations of green norms while compensating damage to environment.

The ministry cited a Supreme Court order dated April 2020 in a case involving violation by a company. The apex court has mentioned that closure of the industries are not warranted. However, order for payment of compensation as a facet of preserving the environment in accordance with the precautionary principle has been imposed and proposal for environment clearance be examined on its merits, independent of any proposed action for alleged violation of environmental laws.

Citing the November 2014 order of the Jharkhand High Court, the ministry said that for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the coastal environment and abating coastal environment pollution, it is necessary that all entities not complying with CRZ notifications be brought under compliance of the environment statutes in an expedient manner.

The environment ministry said that it has received several requests from the coastal state governments for proposals, under CRZ Notification, 2011, for considering CRZ clearance in respect of permissible activities which have commenced work without a prior CRZ clearance due to inadequate knowledge of the regulatory regime and other factors.

The ministry has directed the Coastal Zone Management Authority to assess the environmental damages caused by such projects and give specific recommendations in respect of activities, corresponding to the environmental and ecological damage assessed, to be taken by the project proponent.

The ministry said that further action should be taken by the state governments or state pollution control boards under respective provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act.

J&K: 11 days after being shot, dhaba owner's son succumbs to injuries

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE son of a popular dhaba owner in Srinagar, who was critically injured in a militant attack on February 17, died in a hospital on Sunday. It is the second killing of a non-Kashmiri by militants in Srinagar since December 31, 2020.

Akash Mehra (22), son of Krishna Dhaba owner Ramesh Kumar Mehra, succumbed to injuries at SMHS hospital in Srinagar, doctors said. He was undergoing treatment after being shot at inside the dhaba in Durga Nag area of Dalgate in Srinagar. A delegation of foreign diplomats was on two-day trip to Jammu and Kashmir at the time. Akash had sustained two bullet injuries.

His body was taken to his native place at Janipura in Jammu. A large number of people attended the cremation.

The area where the militants struck is a highly secured area. Few metres ahead lies the United Nations Military Observers office, which is highly guarded. The police station is a few hundred metres from the spot.

On December 31, 2020, militants shot dead 67-year-old jeweller Satpal Nishal inside his shop at Hari Singh High Street in Srinagar.

Mother of Aakash Mehra, who was shot by militants in Srinagar, wails | PTI

Satpal had received domicile certificate a few days before being shot. Akash's father Ramesh told this newspaper that the attack on his son was not linked to issuance of domicile certificate as they were residents of the erstwhile J&K state.

Militant outfit Muslim Janbaz Force, which was active in 1990s, claimed responsibility of the attack and warned that it won't allow India to change the demography of Kashmir through domicile law.

Two days after the attack, IGP of Kashmir Vijay Kumar said police had cracked the case by arresting three militants. He said they are new recruits. "The pistol and bike used was also seized," he said, adding that Muslim Janbaz Force was an off-shoot of Lashkar.

Mehbooba asks Centre to hold dialogue with youth to end bloodshed

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday advised the youth that guns and stones were futile as she went on to urge the Centre to hold talks with the people from Jammu and Kashmir. "We believe there is no other option other than dialogue. Young boys are taking up guns and dying in encounters," Mehbooba told reporters at Pulwama in south Kashmir. If talks can be held with China and Pakistan, Mehbooba Mufti said, the Central government too should hold dialogue constructively with the people, especially the youth, so that killings and bloodshed stop in J&K. "The gun is no solution to any problem. We should always keep peaceful means as our lodestar and not lose sight of the fact that there are elements who wish to bracket us as violent and extremist to delegitimise our aspirations and our struggle," the former J&K chief minister said. Kashmiris should learn from the farmers' agitation, she said. "The farmers neither have stones nor guns. The whole world is advocating their cause and building pressure on the government to hold dialogue with them to resolve the issue."

SPICY TREAT

Union Minister Smriti Irani eats Panipuri during her visit to Varanasi on Sunday | PTI

Azad's praise for PM Modi draws flak

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE Congress veteran's comments came in for criticism even in Tamil Nadu. Party's Karur MP Jothimani tweeted: "Dear Gulam Nabi Azad Ji you can praise Modi Ji as much as you want. But please remember he tore Kashmir into pieces. This is the state and its people who made what you been for decades along with Congress," tweeted Congress MP from Tamil Nadu Jothimani.

Meanwhile, addressing a function organised by Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust in Jammu, Azad said: "I have traveled to over 100 countries and lived in 5 and 7 star hotels. But when I sit among the people of my village, I love it. Even if the clothes of people of my village are not so clean, it has a different fragrance and it is unmatched," he added.

On February 15, an emotional PM Modi had given a tearful farewell to Azad from the Upper House, saying: "I worry that whosoever will take over from Azad will have to fill very big shoes because he cared not only about his party but also the country and the House. This is not a small thing."

The teary-eyed farewell from Modi had led to speculation that Azad may defect to the BJP. Azad belongs to the group of 23 Congress leaders, who had written to Sonia Gandhi, seeking an organisational overhaul of the party and a leadership change. The group had met in Jammu on Saturday and said the party had weakened in the past decade and there was an urgent need to strengthen it.

EASY ACCESS

Bihar judicial records & free legal advice in digital mode

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ Patna

IN a move aimed at ensuring that common people get easy access to law through digital technology, status of 46.18 lakh cases, 8.3 lakh orders and judgements of various courts in Bihar have been uploaded on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), created in collaboration with the Supreme Court of India.

As part of the plan, nearly four lakh Common Services Centres listed as entities under the Ministry of Electronics & IT of Government of India are working with lawyers are providing free litigation advice to those who log in from across the country.

Sharing the details after inaugurating the Patna High Court's centenary building on Saturday, Patna Sahib MP and Union IT and Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the status of 18.09 crore cases and 13.59 crore orders have been uploaded on NJDG.

"Case status and orders available can be accessed by anyone at the click of a button. This is the way to ensure justice through the digital initiative," Prasad said.

Prasad added that the Common Services Centres are facilitating free litigation advice from a panel of acclaimed lawyers.

"People facing problems from various sections, labourers in getting their dues, and many others from the OBC, SC and ST sections are getting free advice," Prasad said. "One can virtually meet the panel of lawyers. Since 2017, in 6.35 lakh cases advice has been provided."

The Law minister said that during the pandemic, 76.38 lakh cases (52,353 in Supreme Court, 24.55 lakh in high courts, 51.83 lakh in district courts) were heard digitally.

SPREADING WINGS

Focus on culture of development, Delhi minister on entering TN poll ring

GAYATHRI MANI @ New Delhi

"ACTOR Kamal Haasan has not become a famous figure now, or only in Tamil Nadu. He's a renowned and respected personality in the entire country for the last 30 years," said Delhi Cabinet and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) senior leader **Satyendar Jain**. He was referring to AAP's tie-up with the actor-turned-politician's party Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM) and contesting elections in Tamil Nadu.

After receiving encouraging response in Gujarat civic polls, AAP is planning to enter the TN election ring in alliance with the actor's party. Assembly elections in the southern state will be held on April 6.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is said to be on terms with Haasan. As a goodwill measure, the Delhi government recently announced setting up a Tamil academy in the national capital to help spread Tamil culture. Appreciating this, Haasan congratulated Kejriwal on Twitter.

Asked about the pros and cons of contesting polls in TN as an outsider, Jain said: "Everything is possible. The work of a lighthouse is to show direction to the ships, not capture their place. We are making lighthouses and showing people the right direction and helping them get salvation from corrupt politicians."

Citing the example of Gujarat civic polls, Jain said: "We were outsiders there. But people vote for the work you do. There is no outsider or insider. We are all Indians. Wherever we fight and win elections, local governance will be completely handled by locals. We will guide them and give them the AAP model of governance and development."

Kejriwal and Haasan have met a a few times and the actor has also visited the CM's residence. The Delhi-based party has also announced contesting elections in Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat.

LIQUOR IN SCHOOL

A teacher and two employees of a government school in MP's Seoni district were placed under suspension after a video purportedly showing them consuming liquor on the premises went viral on social media

3 HELD WITH OVER 18 KG OF GANJA IN UP'S BANDA

INDIA	Max	Min	INDIA	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	35	18	Mumbai	34	19
Bhopal	35	17	Panaji	33	22
Jaipur	33	18	Patna	33	17
Amritsar	27	10	Lucknow	34	18
Chennai	31	23	Port Blair	30	22
Kolkata	37	22	Imphal	14	27
Srinagar	12	1	Chandigarh	31	11

Maha minister quits over death of Tiktok star

BJP ups ante against Shiv Sena, Fadnavis demands FIR against former forest minister

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday accepted the resignation of Shiv Sena minister Sanjay Rathod in connection with Tiktok star Pooja Chavan's suicide.

The forest minister with his wife met Thackeray. This is the first resignation in the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in one year. It is expected to energise the Opposition in the Assembly.

Rathod was under pressure after BJP MLAs started making noise in the Assembly demanding his resignation. Rathod has maintained that contrary to claims, he had no connection with Chavan. Calling it a 'political game', he said he was stepping down so that the truth comes out.

CM Thackeray, too, said that the Opposition should not do politics over the resignation of Rathod. "He himself offered resignation. A fair and impartial inquiry will take place and truth will come out. No one will be spared. The Opposition should believe in the investigation. If they raise questions, it will be unfortunate and unacceptable," Thackeray said.

Thackeray also said dirty politics is being played to ruin a political career. "We have asked for a time-bound probe. Investigation is on the right track. Once the report is submitted, action will be taken. We will not entertain unnecessary demands of the Opposition."

Rathod linked to woman's 'suicide'

Sanjay Rathod was facing allegations of complicity in the death of Puja Chavan (23), who was found dead in Pune on February 8, apparently after falling off the building where she lived

Earlier in the day, Leader of Opposition and former CM Devendra Fadnavis demanded Rathod's resignation. He threatened that if he did not resign, they would give up membership of Disha law committee for justice to women.

Maharashtra BJP president Chandrakant Patil said resignation was not enough and an FIR should be registered against Rathod. "We will not stop until Pooja Chavan gets justice. Our fight will continue. We will also demand the resignation of NCP minister Dhananjay Munde in connection with his second marriage," Patil said. Chavan's parents met the CM and handed over a letter demanding a fair probe.

ISF chief Abbas Siddiqui (2nd from left) with Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel (3rd from right), Left Front and Congress leaders at an election rally in Kolkata | PTI

On stage, ISF's word of caution for Cong

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

A day after Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said his party was yet to forge an alliance with the newly formed Indian Secular Front (ISF) in West Bengal, ISF founder Abbas Siddiqui on Sunday made it clear that his party would not join hands with the grand old party if his demands are not met ahead of the Assembly polls.

Proclaiming support for the Left Front (LS) and its allies in the state, Siddiqui, however, said Bengal will get the better of the BJP and "its B-team Mamata Banerjee" in the election. The ISF has sealed a seat-sharing agreement with the Left Front for the Assembly election, while talks with the Congress are underway.

Addressing a mega joint rally at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata, Siddiqui, a Muslim cleric who launched the ISF last month, announced that his supporters will vote for the candidates of the CPI(M) and its partners and cautioned the Congress over the ongoing seat-sharing deal, asking it to arrive at a decision soon. "Many are thinking that I am supporting the LF and not talking about the Congress. Let me clear that the ISF has demanded what it deserves. I am here to secure my stake not to satisfy anyone. I am here (in politics) to be a partner, not for any kind of appeasement. I am here to get my rightful claims," he said.

So far, the LF has agreed on giving 91 seats to the Congress and 30 seats to the ISF. However, the ISF is insisting on 3-4 more seats, including the high-profile constituency of Nandigram. The Congress refused to give two of the seats demanded by Siddiqui as the party has its sitting MLAs there.

The rally, ISF supporters gave Siddiqui a rousing welcome as he appeared on the stage when Chowdhury was in the middle of his speech. The Congress leader then sought to cut it short. He, however, continued the address after Left leaders such as Biman Bose and Md Salim persuaded him.

The LF called for "knocking out the TMC and BJP, and stressed the need for a third alternative to provide a *"Janhit Sarkar"* (people's welfare government) to ensure employment generation.

Bihar-based LJP to contest in Bengal, Assam polls

The Lok Janshakti Party has announced that it will try its electoral luck in the Bengal and Assam Assembly elections to take on the JDU and other parties. The decision was taken at a meeting between LJP chief Chirag Paswan and his party leaders at Patna.

No meeting yet, Kailash yatra doubtful this year too

DEHRADUN: The Kailash-Mansarovar annual pilgrimage might be cancelled for the second year in a row. It did not take place last year due to the pandemic. With no instruction or news of any preparatory meeting from the Union Ministry of External Affairs yet, officials of Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) said they are doubtful of the yatra taking place this year.

"Preparatory meetings for the yatra are held in January and February every year. No meeting has been convened so far, which is why it is not certain if the yatra will happen this year," said KMVN general manager Ashok Joshi. KMVN is the nodal agency which has been managing the annual pilgrimage from Lipulekh Pass since 1981.

According to normal practice, the first few meetings are convened by the Ministry of External Affairs, followed by a meeting in Pithoragarh which is attended by representatives of KMVN, district administration and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. *ENS*

'Ganga highly polluted in Rishikesh, Haridwar'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dehradun

A study conducted by researchers from Doon University has indicated 'very high presence of pollutants' in urban stretches of river Ganga at Rishikesh and Haridwar. The study indicates that millions of pilgrims visiting the two cities, especially Haridwar, for Kumbh festival will be 'exposed to high concentration of water pollutants'.

Surindra Suthar, associate professor in Doon University who led the study, said: "The pollutants include anti-inflammatory and common antibiotics, caffeine and antibacterial medicines, among others. The overall concentration of Polypropylene Copolymer (PPCP) in the stretch was found to be up to 1,104.84 nanograms per litre. Concentration of anti-inflammatory drugs and antibiotics were higher in the winter season, possibly because of decreased biodegradation associated with lower temperature and inadequate sunlight."

The researchers detected this during a study conducted over three seasons on the river stretch along Rishikesh and Haridwar. The stretch of Ganga in Rishikesh and Haridwar is 16kms and 40kms, respectively.

According to researchers, mass bathing, urban waste and effluent from sewage treatment could be a source of PPCPs. The effluent from domestic sewage, discharge from hotels and ashrams reaches the Ganga, causing additional contamination.

Researchers said they analysed the water of Ganga at entry points to the cities and also in spots before it enters a sewage treatment plant. Pollution of Ganga has been a national concern for years. Despite several attempts, not much has been achieved.

AMID COVID

J'khand schools to reopen for Class 8 & above

RANCHI: More than 1,400 government schools in Jharkhand will reopen after nearly a year on March 1 for students of Class VIII and above. Jharkhand Education Project Council has directed schools to sanitise their premises and make arrangements to ensure safety.

Students will be made aware about coronavirus through a video prepared by the state government. Special care will be taken to sanitise schools used as quarantine centres. As per an advisory issued by JEPC, every student will be shown the video prepared to protect themselves. Schools will be asked to announce the measures taken on notice boards.

School administrations have also been advised to maintain social distancing in and outside classrooms. Consent letter from parents of students attending classes is mandatory. *ENS*

BPF chief Hagrama Mohilary addresses the media in Guwahati on Sunday | PTI

GA will not have to poach MLAs to form govt: BPF's dig at BJP

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

TAKING a jibe at the BJP, its estranged ally Bodoland People's Front (BPF), which joined the Congress-led grand alliance, said on Sunday that the seven-party conglomerate will be able to form the next government in Assam without having to poach MLAs from other parties.

"We will form the next government without borrowing (poaching) MLAs. You have seen it in BTC (Bodoland Territorial Council) polls. MLAs were kidnapped and taken to Shillong, Hotel Lily (in Guwahati)," BPF chief Hagrama Mohilary said at a joint press conference of the alliance.

Exuding confidence that the coalition will get an absolute majority, the insurgent leader-turned-politician said it would drive out the ruling BJP from Assam and save the state. "We need 65 (64) seats (in the 126-member House) to form the government. Our target is to win 70 seats," Mohilary said. Before he could add, state Congress chief Ripun Bora intervened and said: "We have already asserted that our goal is to win 101 seats)."

The BJP has also set a goal of winning 100-plus seats together with allies Asom Gana Parishad and United People's Party Liberal (UPPL).

"We strongly believe we can work together for peace, progress and unity. We will fight the elections together," Mohilary added.

The other components of the grand alliance are minority-based All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), CPI, CPM, CPI-ML and regional Anchalik Gana Morcha. This is for the first time that the Congress and the AIUDF have allied with them. It was always resisted by former Chief Minister the late Tarun Gogoi of the Congress for the fear of a possible setback in the Assamese-majority Upper and Northern Assam areas where a strong sentiment of Assamese sub-nationalism works. Despite its alliance with the BPF in the three-party Assam government, the BJP had not tied up with the former in the BTC elections in December last year.

When the polls had thrown up a fractured mandate, it forged a post-poll alliance with the UPPL.

EXPRESS READ

Arun Kumar Singh new chief secretary of Bihar

Patna: Senior IAS officer Arun Kumar Singh was on Sunday named as the next chief secretary of Bihar. According to a notification issued by the general administration department, the 1985-batch officer will replace incumbent Deepak Kumar who retired a year ago and completed his year-long extension on this day. Singh was earlier posted as the state's Development Commissioner. The post has now been given to additional chief secretary Amir Subhani.

Domestic air service begins in Bilaspur

Raipur: Domestic flight services from Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh will begin from March 1. Alliance Air, the Air India's regional subsidiary, will operate flights four times a week. Bilaspur is the third city after Raipur and Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh to get domestic air services. The new service will benefit adjoining districts of Korba, Raigarh, Sarguja, Surajpur, Balrampur and Koriya. In January, the DGCA had upgraded the licence of Bilaspur airport which has been named after Bilasa Bai Kevtin.

SPIRITUAL QUEST

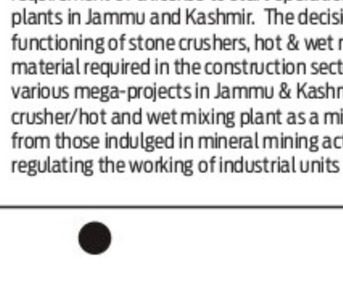
Beyond religion: Muslim schoolgirl learns Bhagavad Gita

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

RELIGION is no barrier in attainment of spiritual knowledge. **Mushariff Khan** from Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district is a perfect example of this. The Class VIII student can recite shlokas from the Bhagavad Gita with élan, much to the delight of her parents and teachers.

Mushariff started learning the holy Hindu scripture as part of memory retention training, and now she and her parents are proud that she has imbibed the best tenets of another religion. The talented girl has learnt by heart 500 out of the total 701 shlokas in the Bhagavad Gita, using the memory retention technique taught by her Abacus and Vedic Mathematics teacher Rohini Menon.

"Mushariff is one of my best students. I gave her three options to showcase her memory retention technique: memorising the entire dictionary, the entire Constitution of India or the Bhagavad Gita. To the surprise of us all, she opted for learning the Bhagavad Gita. She started learning when she was in Class VI and has so far memorised 500 Sanskrit shlokas," Menon told this newspaper.



Menon said many of her other students, too, have tried to learn the shlokas from the Bhagavad Gita, but only Mushariff has succeeded in memorising 500 shlokas till now and is determined to learn and understand the remaining ones, too.

Mushariff, whose father is a Mathematics teacher and mother a housewife, had joined the short course of Memory Retention under Menon two years back. "After doing the short course, I wanted to do something unique and different. I chose to memorise the Bhagavad Gita because my mother has always taught me that 'out of your house, you are a just a human being and not an individual following a particular religion'. My parents permitted me to learn the Bhagavad Gita as they wanted me to gain knowledge of every religion," said Musharraf.

Proud of Mushariff's achievement, her mother Zeenat Khan said, "Yes, we are Muslims. But we want to bring up our daughter in a manner that she grows up to be a noble human being ingrained with the best tenets of every religion."

Girl living in one-room tin shed excels in 10th exam

Parveena Ayoub, who lives in one room tin-shed in Khurhama area in Ganderbal district, secured 490 marks out of 500 in the recently declared 10th class results. The girl from a poor family did not take any tuition and borrowed books and notes from her friends to prepare for the exams. Her father is a labourer and has to support a family of six, including four daughters and wife. Parveena wants to become a doctor. DPS-Srinagar has awarded 'Satya Devi Amla' prize and a two year fully-funded scholarship to Parveena. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5000. DPS-Srinagar has also assured to provide her the best platform to excel in academics and other co-curricular fields.

SRINAGAR DIARY

FAYAZ WANI
Our correspondent in Jammu and Kashmir
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No licence required for stone crushers & others

To promote 'Ease of Doing Business', the UT administration notified J&K Stone Crushers/ Hot and Wet Mixing Plants Regulation Rules, 2021 dispensing away the requirement of a license to start operation of stone crushers/ hot and wet mixing plants in Jammu and Kashmir. The decision will facilitate establishment and functioning of stone crushers, hot & wet mixing plants and boost the supply of raw material required in the construction sector. This will also expedite completion of various mega-projects in Jammu & Kashmir. The new rules recognise a stone crusher/hot and wet mixing plant as a mineral-based processing unit different from those indulged in mineral mining activity. The applicability of provisions regulating the working of industrial units has been extended to cover these units.

Sonamarg opened for tourists ahead of schedule

With tourists returning to Kashmir, Sonamarg was thrown open for tourists on February 25. It was for the first time that this tourist destination was thrown open in February, two months ahead of the scheduled opening. Sonamarg usually opens for tourists in April-end. Located at an altitude of 2740 meters above sea level in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and surrounded by snow capped mountains, the popular destination is still covered with snow. The Tourism department wants to promote it as a winter destination also.

Absconder on run for 31 years arrested

An absconder, who was on run for 31 years, was finally arrested. The police got leads that fugitive Bashir Ahmad Zagoo of Anantnag was hiding at Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. A team of J&K police rushed to Shimla and managed to arrest him. Bashir was evading arrest for the last 31 years. He was wanted for his involvement in a theft case registered against him in 1990. After being brought to Kashmir, the accused was presented before a Srinagar court for police remand. Another absconder Farooq Ahmad Rajput, who was evading his arrest from July 2019, was also caught in the police net in a separate operation.

15 migrants bound for Europe died when their boat capsized in Mediterranean on Sunday

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	14	-4	SNY	Los Angeles	24	8	SNY
Colombo	32	23	TDS	Melbourne	24	16	TDS
Dhaka	28	16	SNY	Moscow	-8	-15	LC
Dubai	26	17	SNY	New York	3	-4	LC
Houston	20	9	SNY	Singapore	32	24	TDS
Istanbul	16	7	LC	Toronto	2	-9	LC
London	11	3	LC	Washington	13	-1	LC

18 SHOT DEAD BY JUNTA ON MYANMAR'S BLOODY SUNDAY

Deadly force and mass arrests across the country as military regime tries to break growing protests; highest single-day toll among protesters since Feb 1 coup

YANGON

Security forces in Myanmar opened fire and made mass arrests on Sunday as they sought to break up protests against the military's seizure of power, and a UN human rights official said it had credible information that 18 people were killed and 30 were wounded.

That would be the highest single-day death toll among protesters who are demanding that the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi be restored to power after being ousted by a February 1 coup. "Deaths reportedly occurred as a result of live ammunition fired into crowds in Yangon, Dawei, Mandalay, Myeik, Bago and Pokokku," the UN Human Rights Office said in a statement.

"We strongly condemn the escalating violence against protests in Myanmar and call on the military to immediately halt the use of force against peaceful protesters," its spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani was quoted saying.

An Associated Press journalist was taken into police custody on Saturday morning while providing news coverage of the protests. The journalist, Thein Zaw, remains in police custody.

The Democratic Voice of Burma reported that as of 5 pm in Myanmar, there had been 19 confirmed deaths in nine cities, with another 10 deaths unconfirmed. The independent media company broadcasts on satellite and digital terrestrial television, as well as online.

Gunfire earlier had been reported during protests in Yangon, as police also fired tear gas and water cannons while trying to clear the streets. Photos of shell casings from live ammunition used in assault rifles were posted on social media.

Initial reports on social media identified one young man believed to have been killed. His body was shown in photos and videos lying on a sidewalk until other protesters carried him away. Before Sunday, there had been eight confirmed reports of killings linked to the army's takeover, according to the independent Assistance Association of Political Prisoners.

The February 1 coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy after five decades of military rule. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party would have been installed for a second five-year term in office, but the army blocked Parliament from convening and detained her and President Win Myint, as well as other top members of Suu Kyi's government.

On Sunday morning, medical students marched in Yangon near the Hledan Center intersection, which has become the gathering point for protesters who then fan out to other parts of the city.

Videos and photos showed protesters running as police charged at them, and residents setting up makeshift roadblocks to slow their advance. Some protesters managed to throw tear gas canisters back at police. Nearby, residents were pleading with police to release those they picked up from the street and shoved into police trucks to be taken away. *Agencies*

(Left) Protesters erect makeshift barricades to obstruct security forces during a demonstration in Yangon; (Above) An injured man being rushed to hospital | AFP

AT LEAST SIX CITIES SEE BLOODSHED

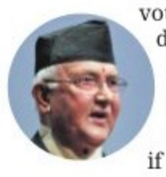
- 18 deaths in at least six cities
- Confirming the deaths of protesters has been difficult amid the chaos and general lack of news from official sources
- The Democratic Voice of Burma counted five deaths in Yangon
- Two were reported dead in Mandalay
- In Dawei, local media reported at least three people were killed during a protest march, supported by photos and video. Photos on social media showed one wounded man in the care of medical personnel.

Remove me if you can, Oli dares Nepal's president

KATHMANDU

NEPAL'S embattled Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Sunday challenged the ruling Nepal Communist Party's splinter faction led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to remove him from the top post.

Addressing an event in his home district, Jhapa, Prime Minister Oli challenged the Prachanda-led faction to table a vote of no confidence motion and endorse that, *My Republica* reported.



"Remove me if you can. If I am ousted, I'll emerge victorious with a two-thirds majority," Prime Minister Oli was quoted as saying. "K P Oli is still the parliamentary party leader of the NCP. He is the party chairman as well as the prime minister," Oli said.

Nepal plunged into a political crisis on December 20 after President Bidya Devi Bhandari dissolved the House and announced fresh elections on April 30 and May 10 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, amidst a tussle for power within the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP).

In a landmark ruling, a five-member constitutional bench led by Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher last week annulled the Oli government's "unconstitutional" decision to dissolve the 275-member lower house of Parliament.

ASIA MATTERS

PAKISTAN

Prominent cleric among three killed in attack

A prominent local Pakistani cleric associated with Maulana Fazlur Rehman's Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl has been shot dead along with his son and a seminary student by unknown gunmen on the outskirts of the capital Islamabad, police said on Sunday. The incident took place late Saturday night in the Bhara Kahu area when Mufti Ikramur Rehman was going towards his car and came under the attack. His 13-year-old son Samiullah and the student were also killed. At least three gunmen fired at them and fled after the attack, local police officer Shahzad Khan told the media, adding that the victims succumbed to multiple bullet injuries at a hospital. So far, no one has taken responsibility for the attack which appears to be a targeted killing. The local cleric was politically active and was associated with the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazal (JUI-F).

THAILAND

New faction emerges within pro-democracy movement

A new faction of Thailand's pro-democracy movement staged a protest march on Sunday. Its members called themselves part of the informal Milk Tea Alliance of pro-democracy activists from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand and Myanmar. Marchers sought but failed to go to Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's house, which is on an army base in Bangkok. hipping containers were situated to block them, and police using water cannons, rubber bullets and tear gas barred the way. Erawan Emergency Services said 16 people were injured.

BANGLADESH

Protesters face rubber bullets

Dozens were injured on Sunday as Bangladeshi police fired rubber bullets and tear gas in a third day of protests sparked by the death of a prominent writer and government critic in jail. Mushtaq Ahmed, 53, collapsed in a high-security prison and died late on Thursday, 10 months after being arrested under a "digital security" law that critics say is being used to silence dissent in the country of 168 million people. Live footage on Sunday from local television station Channel 24 showed a road and footpath in front of the National Press Club—a favourite protest site in Dhaka—turning into a battleground as police beat protesters with batons to disperse them. Student activists from the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) hurled rocks and attacked officers

Hong Kong detains 47 under new draconian law

HONG KONG

HONG Kong police on Sunday detained 47 pro-democracy activists on charges of conspiracy to commit subversion under the city's national security law, in the largest mass charge against the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's opposition camp since the law came into effect last June.

The former lawmakers and democracy advocates had been previously arrested in a sweeping police operation in January but were released.

They have been detained again and will appear in court on Monday, police said in a statement.

They allegedly violated the national security law that was imposed by Beijing for participating in unofficial election primaries for Hong Kong's legislature last year.

The defendants include 39 men and eight women aged between 23 and 64, police said.

Benny Tai, a key figure in Hong Kong's 2014 Occupy Central protests, was among those arrested | AFP

The move is part of a continuing crackdown on the city's democracy movement, with a string of arrests and prosecutions of Hong Kong's democracy proponents — including outspoken activists Joshua Wong and Jimmy Lai — following months of anti-government protests in 2019.

The pro-democracy camp had held the primaries to determine the best candidates to field to win a majority in the legislature and had plans to vote down major bills that would eventually force Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam to resign.

Among those arrested on Sunday was former lawmaker Eddie Chu. A post on his official Twitter account confirmed that he was being charged for conspiracy to commit subversion and that he was denied bail. Another candidate in the primaries, Winnie Yu, was also charged and will appear in court on Monday. "Thank you to the people of Hong Kong for giving me the opportunity to contribute to society in the past 15 years," Chu said.

Another candidate in the primaries, Winnie Yu, was also charged and will appear in court on Monday, according to a post on her official Facebook page. *AP*

Cuomo accused of misconduct by second woman

NEW YORK

A second ex-employee of powerful New York state Governor Andrew Cuomo has accused him of sexual harassment, charges the governor denied on Saturday. This time the allegations came from 25-year-old former health adviser Charlotte Bennett, who told *The New York Times* that the governor sexually harassed her in the spring of 2020.

According to Bennett, the 63-year-old politician said in June that he was open to dating women in their 20s, and asked her if she thought age made a difference in romantic relationships, the *Times* reported.

While Cuomo never tried to touch her, "I understood that the governor wanted to sleep with me, and felt horribly uncomfortable and scared," Bennett told the paper.

She added that she spoke to Cuomo's chief of staff and legal counsel, who transferred her to another post in another building. Bennett was happy with the new job and decided not to insist on an investigation.

Cuomo became a national star last spring with his straight-talking yet empathetic coronavirus briefings that contrasted sharply with then-president Donald Trump's dismissive approach to the pandemic. *AFP*

Opposition demonstrators take out a march against Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan calling him to resign in Yerevan, Armenia on Saturday | AP

Armenia prez rejects PM's order to sack military boss

YEREVAN

ABOUT 15,000 protesters calling for the resignation of Armenia's PM marched through the capital Saturday as pressure on the leader intensified after the country's president rejected his order to dismiss the chief of the military general staff.

Protests against Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan arose in November after he signed a cease-fire ending a six-week war with Azerbaijan over the separatist territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. The agreement saw Armenia lose control of territories in Azerbaijan it had held for more than 25 years.

Top military officers this week joined in demanding Pashinyan's resignation, a move that he called an attempted coup. He ordered the dismissal of the chief of the general staff, but the order was subject to approval by Armenia's largely ceremonial president.

President Armen Sarkissian sent the order back to Pashinyan on Saturday, saying he could not give approval because he considered parts of the decree to be in violation of the constitution. It was not immediately clear if Pashinyan would try to revise the order. At the protest rally, opposition politician Naira Zograbyan denounced the prime minister.

The political crisis is being watched closely, particularly in Russia and Turkey, which compete for influence in the South Caucasus region. The South Caucasus has strategic importance as a bridge between Europe and Asia and major pipelines transporting Azerbaijani oil to the West pass through the region. *AFP*

Pressure mounts on Pashniyan to quit

Thousand of protesters took to the streets of Armenia's capital Yerevan over the weekend to call for the resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan

Actor Sacha Baron Cohen with actress Isla Fisher

AWARD SEASON KICKS OFF WITH GOLDEN GLOBES

Usually a star-packed, laid-back party that draws Tinseltown's biggest names to a Beverly Hills hotel ballroom, this pandemic edition will be broadcast from two scaled-down venues in California and New York

THE FAVOURITES

- *Nomadland*, Chloe Zhao's paean to a marginalized, older generation of Americans roaming the West in rundown vans, has long been viewed as a frontrunner for the Globes' top prize
- *Nomadland* will face stiff competition from Aaron Sorkin's *Chicago 7*, a courtroom drama about the city's anti-war riots in 1968 with a mouth-watering ensemble cast including Mark Rylance, Eddie Redmayne and Sacha Baron Cohen
- Both films are fueled by their timely themes of joblessness

OTHERS IN THE RACE

- The other films vying for best drama, the night's final and most prestigious prize, are *Mank*, which topped the overall nominations with six —and *The Father* starring Anthony Hopkins

WILL ZHAO MAKE HISTORY?

- The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has voted for just one female as best director in 77 editions. Only five have won nominations so far. But *Nomadland* director Zhao is tipped to buck that trend

THE GLOBES GO 'BI-COASTAL'

- With the pandemic raging, this year's Globes were always likely to be a remote ceremony—especially after the team behind September's Emmys pulled off a near-flawless award show from an empty theater
- But organisers sprung a surprise by announcing that returning co-hosts Tina Fey and Amy Poehler will anchor a "bi-coastal" ceremony from New York and LA

DID YOU KNOW?

- The membership of the HFPA is small compared to the nearly 10,000 members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which hands out the Oscars
- The HFPA was founded in the 1940s by a group of foreign journalists seeking to improve their access to Hollywood
- Candidates must live in southern California and have reported on the filmmaking industry for a media outlet
- More importantly, each candidate must have at least two current members sponsor his or her application

ETHICAL BREACH

Doctor appears in court video call while performing surgery

SACRAMENTO

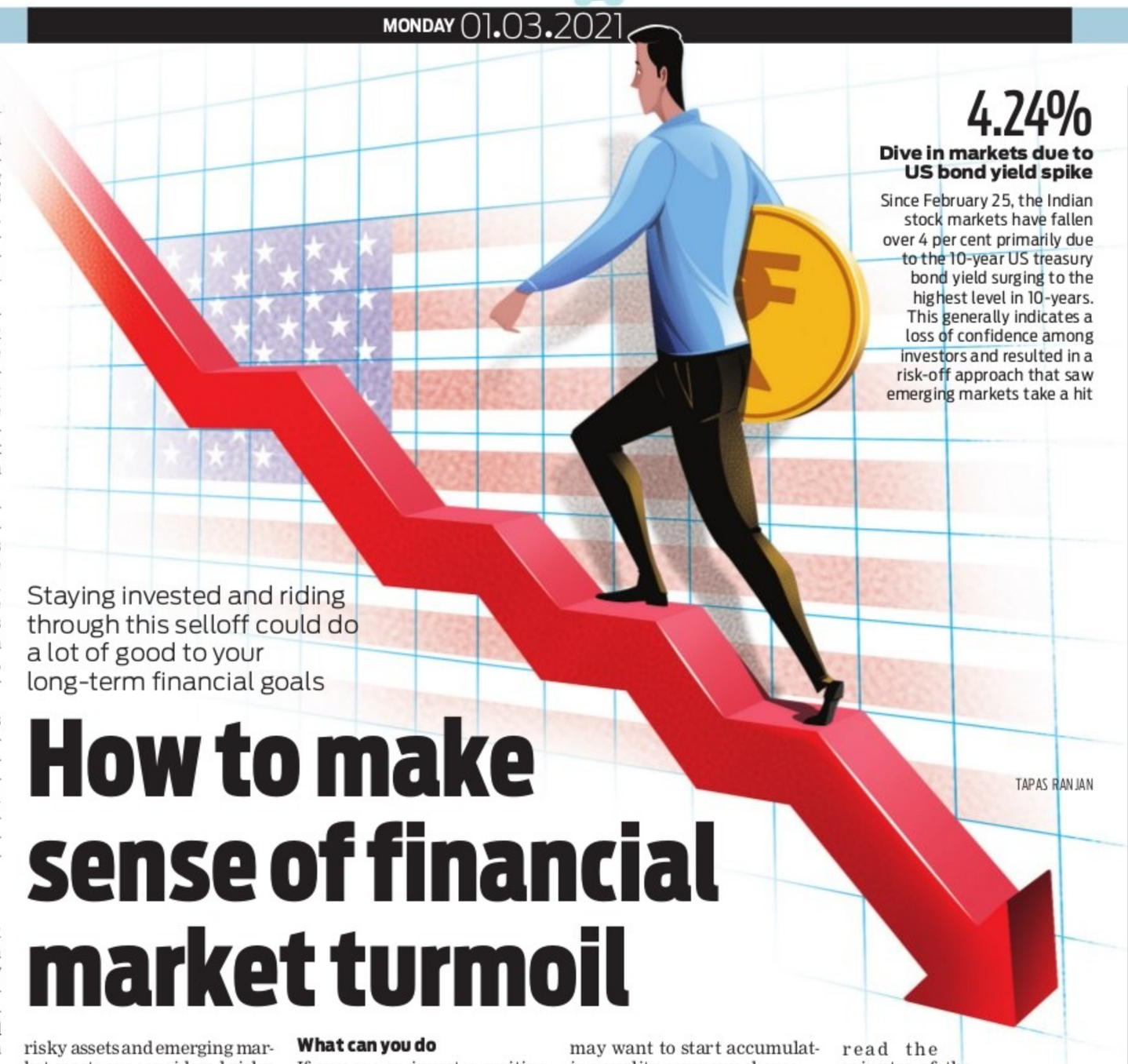
THE Medical Board of California said it would investigate a plastic surgeon who appeared in a videoconference for his traffic violation trial while operating.

The Sacramento Bee reports Dr Scott Green appeared Thursday for his Sacramento Superior Court trial, held virtually because of the coronavirus pandemic, from an operating room. He was dressed in surgical scrubs with a patient undergoing the procedure just out of view; the beeps of medical machinery can be heard in the background.

"Hello, Mr. Green? Hi. Are you available for trial?" asked a courtroom clerk as an officer summoned to appear in trial raised her eyebrows. "It kind of looks like you're in an operating room right now?"

"I am, sir," Green replied. "Yes, I'm in an operating room right now. Yes, I'm available for trial. Go right ahead."

The clerk reminded Green the proceedings were being livestreamed because traffic trials are required by law to be open to the public, and Green said he understood. He appeared to continue working with his head down while waiting for Court Commissioner Gary Link to enter the chamber. When Link appeared and saw the doctor on the screen, the judge hesitated to proceed with the trial out of concern for the welfare of the patient.



TAPAS RANJAN

Staying invested and riding through this selloff could do a lot of good to your long-term financial goals

How to make sense of financial market turmoil

RAJAS KELKAR

A financial market is a broad term. It includes everything from equities, bonds and commodities. Derivatives in all asset classes add another layer to the financial markets system worldwide.

Money moves from one market to another as investors look to make the most of the price differential. The action of investors dictates the movement of the capital—they mandate such a move. The scope expands not only from one asset class to another but also from one country to another.

The United States of America dominates the world financial system. Financial markets in that country are comparable to no other market in size and expanse. You can quickly move millions and billions of dollars in and out of the American stock market, bond market, commodities exchanges, or derivative markets.

While the rest of the world is packed into regions by investors, the United States financial markets get special treatment by institutional and individual investors worldwide. The value of money traded runs into hundreds of trillions of US dollars.

Bond market trigger

The dramatic slump in stock markets worldwide and India last week was triggered by something called the US treasury bond-yield spike. The 10-year US treasury bond yield surged to the highest level in 10-years. When financial market conditions are benign and demand for credit is low, bond-yields remain stable as there is an abundant supply of money. However, the jump in yields indicates that investors are nervous. They are unwilling to agree with the US Federal Reserve's plan to keep key borrowing rates near zero.

Equity, bond and commodity markets around the world witnessed a dramatic selloff last week. Oil prices, gold prices and stock market indices took a nosedive as money moved to safe-haven assets such as cash or bonds.

International investors adopted a risk-off approach to risky assets and emerging market assets are considered risky. Last week, shares in Korea, Taiwan, India and many other markets fell. According to the stock market data on institutional trades reported on Indian stock exchanges, a fund managed by Vanguard, a US-based index-investing company, sold a chunk of Indian equities in bulk quantity. That must have happened in many markets. Foreign portfolio investors control a sizeable chunk of shares of large companies. In markets like India, they own 20% of the value of shares listed on stock exchanges. When globally, investors decide to sell shares, it would have an impact across markets like India.

What can you do

If you are an investor waiting on the sideline, such situations open doors for you. If you read major companies' commentary after the quarterly results announced for the quarter ended December 2020, you will hear optimism. Most managements of large companies are confident about a recovery in the economy and the business. Analysts tracking most sectors predict a sharp rally in corporate profits for the years ending March 2022 and March 2023. In such a situation, holding on to Indian shares makes more sense than selling. Share prices may fall further if the selloff from foreigners continues. However, at some stage, you may want to start accumulating quality company shares.

If you are investing regularly through systematic investment plans, you must not withdraw your money in panic. That could be a terrible thing to do as stock markets move in cycles. Your next month's investment will buy you more units of the fund or stock as prices fall. Staying invested and riding through this selloff could do a lot of good to your long-term financial goals.

Bond yields in the US spiked and created havoc across world markets. They spiked in India too. However, the key to all of that is inflation in the economy. The risk of inflation is muted over the next year if you read the minutes of the RBI's monetary policy committee meeting. However, members have flagged spikes in oil prices and food inflation as short-term risks. The RBI committee that sets key borrowing rates has maintained an 'accommodative' credit policy stance. That means a spike in borrowing rates is unlikely even if inflation rises in the short-term. Your fixed deposit investments are likely to remain where they are. Banks are in no hurry to pay any higher interest rates as they have currently have surplus money.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

4.24%

Dive in markets due to US bond yield spike

Since February 25, the Indian stock markets have fallen over 4 per cent primarily due to the 10-year US treasury bond yield surging to the highest level in 10-years. This generally indicates a loss of confidence among investors and resulted in a risk-off approach that saw emerging markets take a hit

MONEY-WISE

Retail investors should keep focus on the long term

P V SUBRAMANYAM

LAST week the Sensex fell by 1,939 points—one of the biggest falls in absolute terms, but under 4 per cent—that is a big number, but not the biggest fall. When you think in percentage terms, this is really not much.

Well, to be clear nobody, really nobody knows why the market went down, but there are many reasons that we will tell you:

--Interest rates in the US are inching up, and as the market acts in advance, markets decided that some correction is necessary.

--President Trump was an exception, the new President Biden has just started bombing Syria, and this will take oil to at least $80-90 per barrel soon. This means a lot of speculative money will go into buying oil futures—and money has to come by selling existing equity, right?

--There is something called a carry trade—people borrow in the USA to buy assets all over the world. Since the Indian markets were doing well, the money will book profits and leave India.

--There will be some more selling Emerging Markets and buying Developed Markets anyway—preparing for a post-Covid world.

--Interest rates in India are also going up—the 10 year G-sec is now at 6.24% p.a.—and this means some Indian investors will also sell Indian equity and put the cash in debt instruments.

--Real returns are negative in India, USA, and Germany and savers will protest and will not invest at low rates—forcing the borrowers to increase interest rates. This will pull away more money from equity markets to debt instruments.

--We all know that the equity markets have given sensational returns from March 2020, and hence some of us will take the froth from the market and invest it in debt.

--If you have a leveraged position in the market—there are many people with a leveraged position—either you will sell or your lender (normally broker) will be forced to sell to square up your position. So this puts more pressure on the bulls, and prices go down.

So here are at least 8 reasons why the markets are down, and there could be another 80. What is happening is not of such great importance—let us see what you should do if you are a long term investor.

First of all, for most of us retail investors, the change in the Sensex (or Nifty) should not matter at all. We do not invest in the Sensex—so we should see how our portfolio is doing. If we had started regular investing a few years earlier, we would not even been able to see the impact of a one-day fall. Like all seasoned investors you too could say "it was just a blip". However, if you had started investing recently (about 17,00,000 accounts were opened last month) you might get a little perturbed. Stay calm. Do nothing. Just go about your investing in a cool and calculated manner. I am not saying it is easy, but it has to be learnt slowly, and it will do you a lot of good.

(Views expressed by the author are personal)

Stock market to take cues from bond yields, positive GDP growth data

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AFTER a disastrous Friday,, the Indian stock markets are set to head towards another week where rising US bond yields will remain the primary focus of investors. Besides bond yields, factors such as geopolitical tensions between the US and Iran and the upcoming US Stimulus package is likely to play a major role. Investors would also watch out for domestic factors such as the positive GDP growth data for the previous quarter, February auto sales demand and PMI data.

"The market may continue to consolidate given weak global cues. Investors would closely track bond yields, geopolitical tensions and inflation data for further market direction and would monitor developments around new US stimulus announcement," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head–Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

The market has not seen any major correction for a while, so this should only be construed as much awaited profit booking or a short term corrective phase

Sameet Chavan, Angel Broking

On Friday, the benchmark BSE Sensex fell 1,939 points to 49,099.99 and the NSE Nifty Index fell 568 points at 14,529.15 as investors sold off stocks across the board. The massive sell-off was led by a record rise in the 10-year US bond yield.

Ajit Mishra, VP-Research, Religare Broking said that Markets will first react to the GDP data that came in after the market hours on Febraury 26 and that indications are pointing towards a further slide in the Nifty. "We expect volatility to remain high, so traders should maintain extra caution in risk-management aspects. The prudent strategy would be to use rebound to create shorts using options instead of naked futures," Mishra said.

Dhiraj Relli, MD & CEO of HDFC Securities, said that the Q3 GDP growth is lower than their estimate. "The equity markets may be a tad disappointed with these data points but the mood at this point is anyway somber," he said.

New Saral Pension scheme offers retirees options

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

IN India, retirement planning is often perceived to begin only in the latter years of a person's career—often through making rent-accruing investments in combination with insurance. For those without a pension, there is now a new annuity insurance product on the market that can act as a pension plan.

Insurance regulator IRDAI's Saral pension plan is one such scheme that comes into effect on April 1, 2021. Under the scheme, insurers will pay the policy holders a minimum sum of ₹1,000/month, ₹3,000/quarter, and ₹12,000/year. Under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's guidelines, the maximum amount that can be paid by insurance firms is not capped.

Industry experts say that like other annuity plans, the Saral Pension scheme requires people to pay a lump sum amount at the time of purchasing the policy, and this will then be followed by annuity payments. Under the guidelines, the annuity payments are given to the insurer for life, and upon the death of the policy holder, they will be paid to the spouse or the nominee.

Saral Pension, as the name suggests, is a simple pension plan that guarantees immediate payments with no dependence on markets and no cap on investments made by the policy holders. The minimum age to begin receiving the annuity payments is 40 years and the maximum is 70 years.

As far as the surrender of the policy goes, if the policy holder has paid premiums regularly, they can do so after three years, whereas for single premium payment, the policy can be surrendered after a single year. If the policy holder provides proof of critical illness, they may surrender the policy and receive the payment equal to the initial purchase.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

BHARTI AIRTEL

Current Price ₹557.1

Target Price ₹782

BHARTI's superior execution quality is reflected in its strong performance over the past three quarters, with 8% ARPU growth without a tariff hike, leading to resounding EBITDA growth of 27% in Mobile India. It has certainly surprised with market share gains and quality customer acquisitions which have supported ARPU, and should help subscriber stickiness.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

Standard accident cover mandatory from April 1

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has issued directions to all general and health insurance companies that beginning April 1, 2021, they are to mandatorily offer a standard personal accident insurance policy. Named the Saral Suraksha Bima, the standard insurance cover will be offered with a tenure of one year.

The regulator last week released a set of guidelines for the insurance cover that companies are supposed to follow. The minimum entry age to buy the policy shall be 18 years and the maximum age set at 70 for all insured members, including the principal insured.

However, insurers are permitted to fix the maximum age at entry beyond 70 years, subject to their underwriting policy. The policy will also offer cover to dependent children from the age of three months to 25 years.

According to the guidelines, the standard product shall be offered on an individual basis. However, when offered as a family cover, the chosen sum insured will apply to each family member separately. The minimum sum insured shall be ₹2.5 lakh and the maximum sum insured ₹1 crore. Beyond the range specified, insurers may also offer different amounts on their own and may even use the same name for the product if all other terms and conditions remain the same, according to the IRDAI.

The policy will come with three optional covers: temporary total disablement benefit; education grant; hospitalisation expenses. The first two will be offered on a benefit-basis, but the third will be offered on an indemnity basis—where the claim is settled by the insurer paying an amount equal to the expenses sustained. Policy holders will need to make a claim within 30 days of such an event taking place.

EXPRESS READ

RIL unit raises stake in skyTran to 54.46%

New Delhi: Reliance Strategic Business Ventures, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries, on Sunday announced it has raised its shareholding in investee company skyTran Inc to 54.46 per cent, acquiring additional equity stake for consideration of $26.76 million (`196.9 crore). A technology company incorporated under the laws of Delaware, US, skyTran has developed breakthrough passive magnetic levitation and propulsion technology for implementing personal transportation systems aimed at solving the problem of traffic congestion globally, an RIL statement said. skyTran is also supported by notable global venture capital investors such as Innovation Endeavors.

Gold pips FDs in returns, but latter offers less risk

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

IF you are in a position where wyou are looking to invest in low-risk investments, you are most often confronted by the choice of whether to make your investments in gold, or in bank fixed deposits, or term deposits as they are also called. But which one should one actually chose for the current situation is a question that plagues most, so here are a few points to keep in mind while taking such a decision.

Returns

Any investment is judged good or bad based on returns and for a low-risk option, Gold has given an almost 100 per cent return over the past 10 years while FD interest rates are currently at 5-6 per cent annually in most leading banks in India. Due to high liquidity and expectations of higher inflation, gold is expected to continue to give good returns. Fixed deposits, on the other hand, provide fixed returns which are set by the bank during the opening of the account. However, unlike gold, the best thing about FDs is that these returns are guaranteed and, are hence, safer.

Liquidity

The biggest advantage that gold investments have, however, is liquidity. Physical gold can be bought and sold at any establishment dealing in the precious metal with ease. While you can liquidate your fixed deposit before the maturity date, most institutions levy a penal interest on such withdrawals. If you think you might be in need of money before the FD matures, look for companies that offer a penalty-free exit while investing.

Income generation

Fixed deposits can also end up being another source of income for you and one can choose the frequency of interest income one wishes to receive. Alternatively, you can also opt for a cumulative fixed deposit in which the interest is reinvested to earn better returns. On the other hand, gold is an asset whose performance depends on external factors. It is not productive on its own.

Taxation

Returns from gold will be categorized as capital gains, but interest from FDs is taxed at the existing slab rates.

Safety

The gold market can be volatile as it is an internationally traded commodity. FDs are free from such considerations.

Vinesh returns to the mat with gold

Star wrestler Vinesh Phogat pinned 2017 world champion V Kaladzinskay to grab a gold medal at the Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial tournament, returning to the mat in style after a long coronavirus-forced break. Up against the No 7 Belarusian, it was not an easy bout for the Indian as the two grapplers kept testing each other with consistent attacks.

Different Test, similar pitch likely

India eschew safe option & opt for turner, with groundsmen watering only strip's select areas

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Ahmedabad

ALL that India need from the fourth Test against England is a draw to make it to the final of the World Test Championship. While the safer option for them would be to roll out a flat deck for the game starting on Thursday, the hosts are not ready to take any backward step. The strip for that match is also expected to be a turner.

The two-day finish in the previous match has put the venue in focus. In case the next one too ends in a similar fashion, the stadium could face censure from the International Cricket Council (ICC) if the match referee Javagal Srinath gives it a poor rating. Usually the ICC sanctions venues if the pitches are 'dangerous' and it's not based on low-scoring games.

However, it is understood that the controversy surrounding the short duration of the third Test will not have a bearing on the nature of the surface that the hosts will be using for the fourth Test. The indications are that the pitch at Ahmedabad is likely to behave in a similar manner to the one that was used last week. Although the third Test ended in two days with puffs of dust around the full-length area, it did not break up. So, the bounce was consistent throughout. In that sense, it was different to the second Test at Chennai, where there was variable bounce.

On Sunday, the pitch had a greenish look. Although England got a close look at it, they expect the grass to go away. "I think we know what we are going to get in the last Test in terms of surface. They are pushing their conditions to the extremities and we know it is going to spin from ball number one, it is about finding a way to play well in those conditions," England wicketkeeper Ben Foakes said.

As far as preparation for the pitch goes, ground staff are watering select areas, which will ensure the pitch doesn't break

Rohit Sharma in the nets on Sunday | BCCI

up. But at the same time, there will be dry spots for the spinners to work on those areas. So England will also be in the game, provided they play the right combination.

At the same time, it could also backfire on India. If they suffer a similar batting collapse to the one they suffered in the first innings in Ahmedabad, the visitors could have a chance. With a place in the final up for grabs, one expected the hosts to play on a batting-friendly surface. But again, one of the characteristics that has made this Indian side enjoyable to watch is they don't have the habit of shutting shop, unless they are forced by external means like at Sydney.

"We always play with an intention to win the match and that is what we often discuss as a group. There is going to be no change in that and we would like to win the game. You will never go into a match looking for a draw or a safer option. We would like to win the game, so we have to plan and practice accordingly," India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin said.

As far as the combinations goes, with Jasprit Bumrah rested, India are yet to decide their pace combination as to who gets to partner Ishant Sharma. Umesh Yadav is a strong contender to start as his pace can be useful on this deck where there is good carry.

Karnataka, Andhra in Vijay Hazare Trophy QF

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA thrashed Railways by 10-wickets to reach the quarterfinals of the Vijay Hazare Trophy from Elite Group C on Sunday. Andhra also booked their spot with a win over Jharkhand. Though Tamil Nadu emerged victorious against Vidarbha, Andhra managed to pip them to the top spot in Elite Group B thanks to better net run rate.

After Pratham Singh's ton, Railways managed 284/9, Karnataka openers Ravikumar Samarth and Devdutt Padikkal continued their impressive form with the bat here. If the former, who hit 17 fours, managed an unbeaten 130, the latter scored 145 not out, which comprised nine fours and nine sixes. It was Samarth's second ton and Padikkal's third straight ton of the competition.

Kerala have kept their qualification hopes alive. After restricting Bihar to 148, they chased the target in 8.5 overs. Odisha suffered their fourth defeat at the hands of Bihar after posting 140. Hyderabad pulled off a thrilling two-run winover Goa in Surat. They are third in Group A.

Meanwhile, in Indore, Tamil Nadu made short work of Vidarbha after bundling them out for 150 and then chasing down the target in 11.2 overs.

Andhra also took less than 10 overs to chase down Jharkhand's target of 139. Ashwin Hebbar (44) and Ricky Bhui (57 n.o) delivered during the chase. Hyderabad-Goa game was the most nail-biting fixture. Hyderabad posted 345/6 with Tanmay Agarwal (150) and Tilak Varma (128) scoring big. Goa pushed them all the way thanks to knocks from KD Eknath (169 n.o), Snehal Kauthankar (116) but fell short by two runs.

BRIEF SCORES

Group A: In Surat: Hyderabad 345/6 in 50 ovs (Tanmay 150, Tilak 128) bt Goa 343/6 in 50 ovs (Eknath 169 n.o, Kauthankar 116; Teja 3/69). **Group B: In Indore:** Vidarbha 150 in 41 ovs (Aparajith 3/10, Koushik 3/22, Mohammed 3/33) lost to TN 152/5 in 11.2 ovs (Jagadeesan 48 n.o). Jharkhand 139 in 46.2 ovs (Harishankar 4/30) lost to Andhra 140/3 in 9.5 ovs (Bhui 57 n.o). **Group C: In Bengaluru:** Railways 284/9 in 50 ovs (Pratham 129; Gopal 3/41) lost to Karnataka 285/0 in 40.3 ovs (Padikkal 145 n.o, Samarth 130 n.o). Bihar 148 in 440.2 ovs (Babul 64; Sreesanth 4/30, Saxena 3/30) lost to Kerala 149/1 in 8.5 ovs (Uthappa 87 n.o). Odisha 148 in 40.1 ovs (Senapati 49 n.o; Shivam 6/22) lost to UP 150/4 in 21.4 ovs.

Devdutt Padikkal scored his third straight century on Sunday

Arsenal hit back to beat Leicester

Alexandre Lacazette celebrates after scoring the penalty against Leicester | AFP

LONDON: Arsenal delivered a hammer blow to Leicester's faint hopes of winning the Premier League with an impressive 3-1 win, while the revitalised Gareth Bale struck twice in Tottenham's 4-0 rout of Burnley on Sunday. Mikel Arteta's side fell behind to Youri Tielemans' early goal at the King Power Stadium, but David Luiz equalised and Alexandre Lacazette's penalty gave Arsenal the lead.

LOCAL EXPRESS

Rakshitha to lead Karnataka women team

BENGALURU: Rakshitha Krishnappa will lead Karnataka in the senior women's one-day tournament in Chennai, which is scheduled to start from March 13. Veda Krishnamurthy has been named vice captain in the 22-member squad. Lakshmi Hariharan and Mamatha Maben have been named as coaches. Karnataka has been included in Elite Group E, which includes teams like Delhi, Himachal, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu and Vidarbha.

Srinagar may host cue sports nationals after '89

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

AFTER the union sports ministry accepted its elections held on December 12, 2020 and renewed its recognition by a year, the Billiards and Snooker Federation of India (BSFI) is eyeing to host national championships in senior, junior and sub-junior categories. The federation is planning to hold the event in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir in June.

Around 900 cueists are likely to compete in the nationals which will last around a month. The tournament will feature competitions in billiards, snooker and 6-red snooker in all categories. "Our attempt to organise nationals in J&K is in line with endeavour of the central government and the state government to promote sports in the region. Besides, hosting the event in J&K will also send a positive message," Sunil Bajaj, BSFI's secretary-general, told this daily.

Given the uncertainty due to the pandemic, the BSFI has also chosen Puducherry, Bengaluru and Indore as optional venues. "Hosting event in Srinagar is the priority. I'm in touch with Lieutenant Governor of J&K and his principal secretary. We are expected to get feedback in a fortnight. If they give their consent, we will form a team to inspect infrastructure necessary for the event. A final call will be taken later," added Bajaj. J&K last hosted the billiards and snooker nationals in 1989.

World snooker in Indore?

Besides, the BSFI is also planning to host World Snooker Championships in the country. The event is likely to be hosted in Indore, which will also become the new headquarters of the federation. "Madhya Pradesh government will provide us a piece of land for the purpose which will also have an academy to groom players," informed Bajaj. "MP sports minister wants us to host an international event, so we are planning to organise the World Snooker Championships in November."

It was learnt that the BSFI already had a preliminary talk with the international federation (IBSF) in this regard. "We need to come up with a world-class venue to host the event. At least 20 tables should be operational simultaneously to make it possible. Indore had hosted the Asian Championships in the past."

EXPRESS READ

Mumbai clinch ISL shield & AFC CL spot

VASCO: The ambitious project of City Football Group to dominate Indian football for years to come is well and truly underway with Mumbai City securing a spot in the AFC Champions League for the next season by beating ATK Mohun Bagan 2-0 in the final group game of the ISL on Sunday. Meanwhile, FC Goa have made it to the play-offs after playing out a 0-0 draw against Hyderabad FC on Sunday.

India men cruise, women lose in Germany

KREFELD: Indian men's hockey team outclassed Germany 6-1 in its tour opener to make an impressive return to international circuit following coronavirus-forced break. However, the Indian women's side went down 0-1 to Germany in their second game.

Mary Kom, Manish to lead Indian team

NEW DELHI: Six-time world champion MC Mary Kom will spearhead a 14-member Indian contingent in the Boxam International tournament in Castellon, Spain from March 1 to 7. Besides Mary, the team also has Manish Kaushik (63kg).

Prathyusha & Monica: Statemates to India teammates

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

WHEN Karnataka medium-pacer Monica Patel learned about her inclusion in India's women squad for the South Africa series, she had tears of joy. But since she came to know it on WhatsApp, she wanted to confirm it. The 21-year-old then rang her state teammate leg-spin all-rounder C Prathyusha, who also earned a maiden call-up, and the latter confirmed it.

Prathyusha's love for the sport only grew after watching matches with her dad on TV from an early age. When it comes to getting gifts from parents, she always wanted a bat and ball.

"Whenever we went to the market, girls of her age would go after dolls and other toys, but she would go after the plastic bat, balls and stumps and we would buy that. That meant I also had to play with her at home," revealed her father CN Krishna Prasad, who is a software engineer by profession. "When she was around eight, I asked her what she wanted to pursue — cricket or academics. She said, 'I want to play for India'. That is when I came to know how serious she was about cricket."

C Prathyusha (L) and Monica Patel

It was only after suggestions from other coaches, Monica became a pacer and Prathyusha started bowling leg spin. At the start of their career, Monica was an opener while Prathyusha a medium-pacer.

Currently representing Hero ons Cricket Club, they encountered almost similar situations at the start of their careers. They started playing with boys in the beginning. In fact, when Prathyusha played with boys, she was called Phoolan Devi by her teammates in a light-hearted way. Playing against boys, however, shaped them into competitive cricketers they are today.

"Definitely, playing against boys helped. When you play against the boys, the standard is different. It also made me stronger," said Prathyusha, who has led Karnataka U-19 and U-23 teams.

After having represented Karnataka at various age groups, their real test lies now as they gear up for the ODI and T20 series against South Africa, starting March 7 in Lucknow. With India playing an international series after a year, the rookies might not immediately get a place in the XI. But Monica just wants to learn from her seniors.

"There are many seniors in the squad. I want to learn from them, gain experience. And whenever I get an opportunity, I want give my best."

FOOTBALL

Women's league in Odisha

TANMAY DAS @ Bhubaneswar

THE 2020-21 edition of the Indian Women's League (IWL) will be held in Odisha, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) revealed on Sunday. The dates will be announced soon.

Speaking on the development, AIFF president Praful Patel said, "The Government of Odisha has been a great supporter of Indian Football. We are thankful to Shri Naveen Patnaik ji, Mr. Vishal Kumar Dev, Mr. Vineel Krishna & the entire Sports Department of Odisha for extending support & help to organise the Indian Women's League."

With the country scheduled to host the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022 which will be followed by the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022, the 2020-21 IWL, will provide an opportunity to scouts to look at, and unearth new talent for the national team, said the AIFF.

"Earlier Rising Student Club of Odisha has the honours of being the champions (2017-18) and runners-up (2016-17) of the IWL. Also, the Odisha Police has competed in IWL. For the first time we are going to host IWL", said Football Association of Odisha secretary Asirbad Behera.

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

Support Services Department, Central Office - Annexe, Mangaluru

TENDER REF. NO: CO/MNG-ANX/SSD/MNTS/CANTEEN/01/2021 Date: 01.03.2021

NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF CATERING CONTRACTOR TO CENTRAL OFFICE ANNEXE, MANGALURU

Union Bank of India invites sealed bids (in two bid system) from eligible experienced Catering firms having office in Karnataka for appointment of Catering Contractor to Central Office Annexe, Mangaluru. The detailed information regarding complete scope of work, eligibility norms, terms & conditions, etc., are furnished in the tender document available on the Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.co.in** and **www.eprocure.gov.in**. The last date for submission of tender is **23.03.2021 till 3.00 p.m.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all applications without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

01.03.2021

Chief Manager
Support Services Department
CO Annexe, Mangaluru

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-09.

No. BWSSB/CEKTE/TA10/38/2020/3845/2020-21 Date: 22.02.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION - 3rd Call
(Only through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites **Tenders** from eligible tenderers in Two stage tender system for **"Procurement, erection, testing and commissioning of 1350 KW Motors (6 Nos.) for CWSS Stage-I pumping station at Tataguni".**

Amount put to Tender : **Rs. 2,28,49,441/-.**

Last date and Time for receipt of completed tenders is on **15.03.2021 upto 15.00 hrs.** Date of opening of Technical bids is on **16.03.2021 at 16.00 hrs.** Date of opening of Financial bids is on **20.03.2021 at 16.00 hrs.**

As per GoK FD 675, Exp.12/2020, Bengaluru, Dtd: 22.12.2020, the tenderer should submit the EMD Declaration Form.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Kaveri)

DIPR/DDU/YC/2940/2020-21

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT TRUST
(TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT)
ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 27001:2013, ISO 45001:2018 CERTIFIED

E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No: JNP/CM(T)/ICD/Dwarf-Depot/2021/2

JNPT invites e-Tenders in two cover system (Technical & Price Bid) to operate the License for the **"Management, Maintenance and Operation of Dedicated Dwarf Container Depot inside the Port area at JNPT"** for a period of three years. For details visit our website **http://www.jnport.gov.in** or **https://www.eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** E-Tender can be downloaded from **01/03/2021 to 22/03/2021.**

Chief Manager (Traffic)

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
No. 49, Parisara Bhavan, Church Street, Bengaluru-560001. Ph. No. 080-25581383/ 25589112
E-mail: **stores@kspcb.gov.in** Website: **kspcb.gov.in**
IFT No: PCB/391/STORE/2021-22/2552 Date: 24.02.2021

INVITATION FOR TENDER-4th CALL (Through e-procurment portal)

SEC-I: INVITATION FOR TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF TONER CARTRIDGE TO KSPCB (IFT)

1. The Member Secretary, KSPCB invites tenders from eligible tenderers for supply of Toner Cartridges to the Board through e-Procuremet platform website: **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
2. The tenderer must submit rates for all of the items given in Section-V Schedule of requirement in the tender document. Tenderers are advised to note the qualification criteria specified in section-VII to qualify for award of contract.
3. Tender documents are uploaded in e-procurement platform website **http://www..eproc.karnataka.gov.in** (or) Hard copy of Tender document if required, (and additional copies) may be purchased from the office of the Chief Finance Officer, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, 1st Floor, Church Street, Bengaluru-560001 from **01.03.2021 to 31.03.2021,** during office hours, for a non-refundable fee of **Rs.500/-** (Rupees Five Hundred Only), in the form of cash or Demand Draft/ Pay Order on any Nationalized/ Scheduled bank payable at Bengaluru in favour of Member Secretary, Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Bengaluru.
4. Tenders must be accompanied by earnest money deposit to be made through e-payment
5. Tenders must be uploaded on the website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
6. Other details can be seen in tender documents.
7. Tenderers who are authorized dealers can upload the tender for supply of toner cartridge.

Sd/-
Member Secretary

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निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण ग्रुप / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP,
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695022
(फ़ोन नं: / Ph. No: 0471- 2564568/2564537)

ई-निविदा सूचना सं. वीएसएससी/सीएमजी/सिविल/14/2020-21 दिनांक 23.02.2021
E-Tender Notice No. VSSC/CMG/CIVIL/14/2020-21 Dt. 23.02.2021

ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए संक्षिप्त सूचना / BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

I) भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, सम्मिश्र श्रेणी के अधीन निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई–टेंडरिंग द्वारा ऑनलाइन मद–दर निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following work under **composite category**.

क्र.सं./ Sl. No.	विवरण / Description	ब्यौरे / Details
1.	कार्य का शीर्षक / Title of work	आरपीपी, वीएसएससी, तुंबा में (1) पाइरोजेन प्रज्वालक उत्पादन सुविधा, (2) पारवहन भंडार सुविधा तथा (3) परीक्षण व विश्लेक्षण सुविधा (स्पार्क सुविधाएं) के लिए विभिन्न भवनों का निर्माण (सिविल, पीएच, यांत्रिक तथा विद्युत कार्य) / Construction of Various Buildings for (1) Pyrogen Igniter Production Facility, (2) Transit Storage Facility and (3) Testing & Analysis Facility (SPARC Facilities) at RPP, VSSC, Thumba (Civil, PH, Mech. & Electrical works)
2.	निविदा में दी गई अनुमानित लागत / Estimated cost put to tender	कुल/Total - रु./**Rs.1089.00 लाख/Lakhs** ए/a) सिविल तथा पीएच कार्य/Civil & PH works - रु./Rs.821.95 लाख/Lakhs. बी/b) विद्युत कार्य/Electrical works - रु./Rs.267.05 लाख/Lakhs.
3.	कार्य पूरा होने की तिथि / Period of completion	**14 (चौदह/Fourteen) महीने/Months**
4.	बयाना जमा राशि (ईएमडी) / Earnest money deposit (EMD)	शून्य (ईएमडी घोषणा के हस्ताक्षरित प्रति प्रस्तुत करना है जैसा की विस्तृत एनआइटी के पयंट सं 7 में उल्लिखित है) **NIL (Signed copy of EMD Declaration shall be submitted as referred in Point No. 7 of detailed NIT)**
5.	अवधि जिसके दौरान निविदा दस्तावेज को डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है / Period during which the Tender document can be downloaded	से/From 01.03.2021, 10.00 बजे/Hrs तक/to 15.03.2021, 23.00 बजे/Hrs
6.	बोली स्पष्टीकरण / Bid clarifications	से/From 01.03.2021, 10.00 बजे/Hrs तक/to 16.03.2021,16.00 बजे/Hrs
7.	निविदा पाने की अंतिम तिथि व समय / Last date and time for receipt of tenders	को तक/Up to 17.03.2021, 14.30 बजे/Hrs
8.	निविदा खोलने की अंतिम तिथि व समय / Due date and time of opening of tenders	को /On 18.03.2021, 15.00 बजे/Hrs

ii) योग्यता मानदंड तथा अन्य ब्यौरों को पाने के लिए इच्छुक निविदाकार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करते हुए विस्तृत सूचना (ई-एनआइटी) का अवलोकन करें, जिसे www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO से डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.

Sd/-
ग्रुप निदेशक, सीएमजी, वीएसएससी
Group Director, CMG, VSSC

China has given conditional approval for a single dose Covid-19 vaccine, touted to be a rival to Johnson & Johnson's one-jab shot cleared by the US drug regulator on Sunday. China's first Ad5-nCoV COVID-19 vaccine was rolled out on Friday, the state-run *Global Times* reported on Sunday.

EXFILE • ENVIRONMENT

How Kenya is regrowing its destroyed forests

In East Africa, trees were felled en masse by colonial administrators to fuel a train across the region. Today, land is cleared for agriculture and charcoal production as Kenya's population burgeons. As a result, the country has seen mass depletion of forests for over a century. Conservationists are drawing inspiration from an ancient practice to solve the idea: Scattering "seedballs" in razed areas to give nature a helping hand

REGENERATION

At first glance, the round black pellets could easily be mistaken for animal dung. But these hardy little balls contain acacia seeds that are helping regrow Kenya's forests. In a tranche of razed forest bordering the Masai Mara wildlife reserve, a team of rangers scatter generous handfuls of "seedballs" around the bald clearing to give nature a fighting chance to regenerate

22,000

It takes just minutes for the eight rangers from the Mara Elephant Project, a conservation group, to toss some 22,000 seedballs across this ravaged corner of the Nyakweri forest

NOVEL METHOD

Developed by Seedballs Kenya, the casing of charcoal dust protects the seed inside from being eaten by mice, birds or insects before it germinates. The shell is semi-porous, giving it a fighting chance even in arid conditions

MASAI MARA

Masai Mara, the legendary wildlife haven and savannah wilderness in Kenya's southwest. The forests bordering the reserve have been chipped away at, for pasture, crops and charcoal

50%

Nyakweri forest, for example, has lost more than 50 per cent of its forest cover in the past two decades, reducing key habitats for wild animals

12,300

Kenya's forests are cleared at a rate of 12,300 acres a year

INSPIRATION FROM HISTORY

The idea is not entirely new: In ancient Egypt, seeds were coated in mud to protect them from the elements and hungry passersby. But instead of mud, the innovation in Kenya is using cheap, abundant charcoal dust to forge their own casing

5-10%

Of the seedballs thrown into the wild, only a small number -- somewhere in the five to 10 per cent range -- has actually yielded a shoot

The germination rate is low and some seeds can hibernate for years -- making visible gains long in the making

13 MN

seedballs have been sold to small farmers and big investors alike since 2016

CLOSED LOOP CYCLE

The dust used to compound the pellets is a byproduct of the charcoal industry, which itself is a driver of deforestation, with felled trees slow-heated in kilns to produce the popular and inexpensive fuel. "It is kind of a closed loop cycle," said said Teddy Kinyanjui, the co-founder of Seedballs Kenya

1st malaria RNA vaccine in the works

Coronavirus-driven new immunisation technology proves useful in reviving anti-malaria R&D

MEDICINE

Anti-mosquito fogging in Thiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu | EXPRESS

NEW YORK: The world still does not have an effective vaccine for malaria, the disease caused by a fever-causing parasite after a mosquito bite. The disease kills up to an estimated 6.2 lakh a year, with most deaths being children under five years of age.

To address the lack, American researchers have invented a new blueprint for a malaria vaccine, with properties similar to the successful RNA-based vaccines for Covid-19.

The malaria parasite, plasmodium, has a protein that blocks production of memory T-cells, thereby inhibiting our immune system from protecting us against diseases it has already encountered. If the vaccine can't make the body produce these cells, then the vaccine will not be effective.

The researchers have tried a new approach that circumvents the protein and fully immunises the body against malaria. The patent application for the vaccine was published by the US Patent & Trademark Office on Feb 4, *The Academic Times* reported.

"It's probably the highest level of protection that has been seen in a mouse model," Richard Bucala, a co-inventor of the vaccine candidate and professor at the Yale School of Medicine, told *The Times*.

Novartis and the US' National Institutes of Health funded the development of the vaccine. GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) will produce the vaccine if the patent is approved. The only malaria vaccine in existence, GSK's Mosquirix, has low efficacy.

Researchers have for decades tried to design a vaccine for malaria. One main problem is the plasmodium parasite. "Suppressing the T-cell response and immune memory is so important to the parasite that the parasite brings its own gene, PMIF, to do that," Bucala said.

So instead of injecting a pathogen into the body to train the immune system, the traditional approach in vaccines, Bucala and pharma researchers Andrew Geall are developing a vaccine that "presents the body with instructions through RNA on how to create the protein unique to the Pathogen by itself in order to fight it — which is precisely how Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine works," *The Times* reported.

But unlike Pfizer, Bucala and Geall's platform uses self-amplifying saRNA platform rather than mRNA, with the former being more effective at lower doses. The saRNA vaccine tells the body to create the plasmodium protein, create antibodies against it and generate the T-cells necessary to fight the infection, Bucala said. He also said that Oxford University is studying the vaccine and that a Phase 1 clinical trial is possible this year.

More men publish academic papers: Study

RESEARCH

NEW YORK: Despite men taking a greater role in parenting, women in academia still experience about a 20% drop in productivity after having a child, a new study suggests.

According to researchers, including Allison Morgan from the University of Colorado Boulder, persistent differences in parenting roles are the key reason that men tend to publish more research papers than women.

The researchers also found that while parental leave is critically important for women seeking faculty positions, 43% of institutions have no such policy.

"Gender differences around parenthood are still driving decreases in women's productivity, and while leave policies are very important for women in choosing their jobs, they are often either missing or incredibly hard to navigate," said Morgan.

For the study, published in the journal Science Advances, the researchers surveyed more than 3,000 faculty in computer science, history and business departments at 450 universities in the US and Canada in 2018. They also gathered data on publishing rates and institution's leave policies. In all, they found that about 80 per cent of faculty have children.

In all, they found that about 80 per cent of faculty have children. But men in academia are more likely to be parents than their female counterparts, suggesting that some mothers opt out of careers in higher education altogether to focus on their kids.

In general, academics who are also parents tend to publish more than non-parents, and fathers publish more than mothers, the researchers found.

Pythons & iguanas banned in Florida

WILDLIFE

ST. PETERSBURG,: Pythons, iguanas, monitor lizards, oh my! Florida is moving to restrict 16 invasive reptile species that have wreaked havoc in the Everglades and across the state. Burmese pythons, in particular, have been especially destructive. to native wildlife.

"Breeding invasive species in Florida is like playing with matches in a tinder box," said Julie Wraithmell, vice president and executive director of Audubon Florida.

YOUR GUIDE TO SPICY LIVING — INDULGE — Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Birth of Rio!

The city of Rio de Janeiro — city and port, capital of the estado (state) of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil — was founded on this day in 1565

THE RIVER THAT NEVER WAS

The name Rio de Janeiro (January River) was a former name of the bay on which Rio lies today. The bay was discovered in January 1502, and was thought to represent the mouth of a great river

QUITE AN ATTRACTION

Resting at the mouth of a bay harbor, the city is lined with white-sand beaches, lush rainforests and surrounded by staggered green mountains. It boasts dramatic views from nearly every angle

CALL OF THE CARNIVAL

There are, on average, 2.25 million international tourists that visit Rio de Janeiro each year, and there are 1.7 million tourists that come to the city for its famous Carnival alone

Saaho director Sujeeth meets Kichcha Sudeep

PG 4

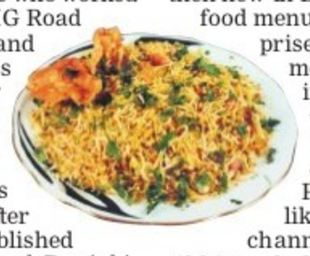
Diners at Queen's Restaurant in 2016, a year before the eatery closed doors

Second serving

Queen's Restaurant, a popular hangout of old Bengalureans, is bringing back its classic Punjabi dishes at a new location in May this year

SANATH PRASAD

New restaurants crop up in Bengaluru frequently but it's not everyday that an iconic eatery makes a comeback. Old Bengalureans, here is some good news for you. Queen's Restaurant at Church Street, which was once the 'adda' of those who worked in and around MG Road or Brigade Road, and college students alike, will now reopen doors in May near New BEL Road with a new name Queen's Home Kitchen. After having been established in 1974, the typical Punjabi-style restaurant closed in 2017, owing to termination of the lease period. "We wanted to reignite the brand, which has a 44-year-long history in the city. So we launched a WhatsApp service during the first month of the lockdown to deliver food. From 30 customers, we were soon serving 300," says Anshul Chodha, who besides managing the family run business, is also an architect.



Anshul's mother, Soneelam Chodha, has always been passionate about cooking and serving people, which eventually gave way to Queen's Restaurant. "We moved from North India to Bengaluru in 1969 and I think my mom was one of the first food entrepreneurs in this city," says Anshul, who claims that, "We were the first ones in the city to start serving authentic Punjabi cuisine which was then new in Bangalore's usual food menu." So it's no surprise to hear that the menu at the second inning of the restaurant will include phulkas, along with other Punjabi dishes like butter chicken, channa bhatura, aloo tikki, and chaats like papdi chaat and raj kachori chaat.

Giving a glimpse into what goes on in the kitchen, Soneelam says, "Onion-garlic paste and wet masalas are a typical indication of Punjabi food. I have included these two through the years. All the masalas are prepared in my kitchen." Agrees Anshul, who proudly adds, "It is a perfect example of home-cooked food. My mother curates the recipes with two ingredients, love and care."

PIC: ROHITH SARCAR

PITCHING IN

Time to help is now, says popular DJ Nikhil Chinapa, who is moderating a fundraising concert for daily-wage workers affected by the pandemic

MONIKA MONALISA

EVERY '90s kid will remember being a fan of VJs. One such name that people never forget was **Nikhil Chinapa**, who was a popular face on MTV. While he may be living in Mumbai now, at heart, he still considers himself to be a "Bangalore boy". "I still support RCB over Mumbai Indians," says Chinapa, who is busy gearing up to moderate the Open Up India Fundraising Campaign, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which is for sanitation workers and migrant workers. The concert will be taking place virtually on March 13. The concert will have performances by Vasu Raina, Raghav Meattle and Lucky Ali, to name a few artistes.

With things going back to the way they were before the pandemic, one might question the need for a fundraiser. To this, Chinapa says, "The impact of the pandemic has been so huge that it will still take time to recover, especially for daily wage workers. This is the time we can come together to help as possible," says Chinapa, who believes the youth of the country must find innovative ways to overcome this crisis. "They can come up with new ideas," he adds.

One of India's most popular DJs, Chinapa has missed playing for a live audience but he is choosing to not sweat the small things. "Lockdown was a low phase but I have nothing to complain. I'm grateful I got to spend more time with my wife and daughter, who turned 3 this year," says Chinapa, who married fellow DJ, Pearl Miglani, in 2012, and to whom he credits his DJing skills.

Chinapa's career as a television personality started when he won the *MTV VJ Hunt* in 1999. He has also been a part of shows like *India's Got Talent 2, MTV Splitsvilla, MTV Mashups, Fame X* etc. Agreeing that people's taste in music and the way they consume entertainment has changed drastically, Chinapa says the secret to staying relevant is to understand the change and to pursue what you love with passion. He explains this with the example of the upcoming concert, which will be streamed digitally, which was something that not many considered some years ago. "As the style of music and the way the industry functions has its own limitations, the only way to go about this is to do things with the same passion you felt on the first day," says Chinapa.

For details about Open Up India Fundraising Campaign, UNDP India, check Insider.in

CITY READ

Department of Posts releases special cover

The Department of Posts has released a special cover to commemorate 50 years of Ladies Circle, India, which is a non-sectarian, non-political organisation that was established in 1970. The special cover will be available for sale at philatelic bureaus of Bengaluru GPO.

Exhibition of hand-crafted textile and jewellery from March 5-9

Over 45 participants from all over India will be participating in Vastrabharana 2021, the Crafts Council of Karnataka's annual flagship exhibition and sale of hand-crafted textiles and jewellery. The event will be held from March 5 to 9, at the New Gallery Spaces, at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road. Timings are 10am to 7pm.

Made without any cuts, this two-hour Kannada feature film, which will release on March 5, is an attempt to create a record of sorts

EXPRESS FEATURES

CUT TO THE POINT

Ask any filmmaker the process of making a film, and he's sure to say it's a lengthy process, with much blood and sweat going into it. Now, director Rabi Machinekad, whose film, *Rakta Gulabi*, is to release on March 5, took it upon himself to make a two-hour-and-eight-minute film without any cuts.

A thriller, which is a story of survival, *Rakta Gulabi* has been made in a single take, with Machinekad hoping to create a record of sorts with this feat. The brainchild of the director himself, Machinekad says that this has been made with a limited budget. "It was no easy task to do this. I was very scared that someone might copy my idea. With a limited budget on hand, the single take and zero edit concept really worried me," says the director about the film which has also been listed in the India book of Records and Asia Book of Records for its one take and zero edits.

The entire movie was shot in Arehalli, Sakleshpur taluk and Hassan district with the director spending a lot of time on pre-production. "I took almost one year to prepare for this movie and I kept it a secret that I was going to shoot a movie without any cut. None of the crew members or artistes had an inkling. I visited the location multiple times and did my own rehearsal," he adds.

The plot of the movie is centred around a person who leaves behind a rebellious system and proceeds towards a new life with his love who then struggles to pass the odds thrown against them. The movie starts when he decides to leave everything behind just to live with her but his past haunts him. The question is whether he saves his love or whether he finds his dream life, says the director. Planning to shoot a film with a single take definitely left room for errors and challenges. From the rain playing spoilsport to technical glitches, the pre-production process proved to be a mountain of problems, according to Machinekad. "When artistes made small mistakes, we had to reshoot the whole movie from the beginning. While moving to multiple locations, we had to re-setup the entire unit," he says, adding that action sequences, involving explosives and weapons, took nearly two months of preparation to ensure it was all shot at one go.

It was no easy task to do this. I was very scared that someone might copy my idea. With a limited budget on hand, the single take and zero edit concept really worried me
- **Rabi Machinekad, director**

XPRESS FOCUS

Rudraksha During Corona: Can the Beads of Belief Change Fortunes?

The COVID-19 pandemic struck the world and has adversely affected all of mankind. It has also affected wealth and wealth creation as it devastated world economy, national finances as well as family budgets.

The effect was genuine and needed a special treatment to regain momentum and for stabilization and growth personal finances.

But does the humble Rudrakash hold a key of solace? Going by experts at Rudrajyoothi, which has been conducting an exhibition of Rudrakshas and offering consultation on purchase, those who believed in nature and natural remedial measures looked up to Rudrarakh, the wonder bead to bring relief for all human anxieties of course including becoming rich. According to Arvind P Bankaar, a rudraksh enthusiast and a researcher, the natural bead has phenomenal powers as stated in ancient scriptures and observed practically in modern world. "A 12 *mukhi* rudraksha is said to rule the brain, eyes, heart and the subconscious mind making it free from disturbances. This helps the wearer take right decisions. Naturally, the decisions are gainful with minimal chances for adversity. With a firm link with Lord Shiva or Rudra, the 12 *mukhs* here represent 12 most auspicious Jyotirlingams," he says.

According to him, a 14 *mukhi* rudraksha is mentioned in ancient Rudra Purana and is ruled by Planet Saturn, overpowering all negative energies and even malefic effects of Kaal Sarpa yoga. "The 14 *mukhi* rudraksha enhances and energises the Ajna Chakra thereby improving intuition. This Chakra is located in between the eyebrows and is the seat of intuition. Thus, the wearer of this Rudraksha is blessed with an intuitive mind for making sound and quick judgements. This helps him / her to execute any plan or action and achieve success in all endeavours," Bankaar elucidates.

He states that it is the most recommended talisman for people in land and construction business, industrialists and high authority professionals.

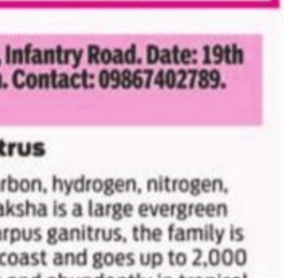
"Even people dealing in equity, mutual funds options and derivatives are advised to wear this for success in speculative transaction," he adds.

A 15 *mukhi* rudraksha is the symbol of Lord Pashupatinath, says Bankaar. "With immense energy levels this bead brings mastery, control and balance. This is related to spirituality as well. This Rudraksh is known to help one procurement wealth and good fortune. It enhances visualisation skills, aids decision making and attracts good prospect to those who wear this lucky talisman. The round one mukhi of Nepal which is rarely available can be effectively substituted by wearing the 15 mukhi Rudraksh. This bead also helps in releasing and retrieving blocked funds," he explains.

According to him, currently 'Bhadraksha' a poisonous seed, is being passed off as Rudrakshas. "Only experts can detect the difference with specialised instruments and techniques. It is essential to get your *mala* from a trusted source. It is also advisable to choose the right Rudraksha based on birth.

Rudraksha in Ayurveda

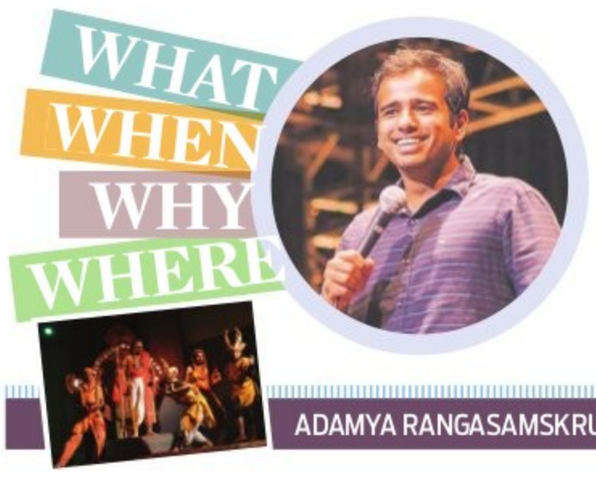
In Ayurveda, Rudraksha is useful in the treatment of high blood pressure, allergies, neurological diseases, asthma, diabetes, cancer and many other Raktavaha Srotadhikara (blood circulatory disorders) and Manas Rogas (mental disorders), due to its Guru (heaviness), Snigdha Guna (greasy nature) Madhura Rasa, Madhura Vapaka and Sita Virya (cooling properties) and Vata Pitta samaka pharmacodynamic action. On the basis of above mentioned pharmacodynamic properties and actions the significance of various types of beads of Rudraksha. (Actually it is a phalasthi (fruit) which is the used part of this tree) can be considered as follows. External use- External therapeutic uses of Rudraksha can be performed by Darsana (By looking like tratak in Yoga) and Sparsana (By wearing, and pressing the beads).



Exhibition Venue: Hotel Ashraya International, Infantry Road. Date: 19th Feb to 1st Mar 2021. Timing: 10.30 am to 8 pm. Contact: 09867402789. LAST DAY TODAY.

The Rudraksha Tree: Elaeocarpus ganitrus

Rudraksha beads are a plant product, containing carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen and trace elements in combined form. Rudraksha is a large evergreen broad-leaved tree. Its scientific name being Elaeocarpus ganitrus, the family is tiliaceae. Altitude-wise, its habitat starts from sea-coast and goes up to 2,000 meters. Geographically it is found growing naturally and abundantly in tropical and subtropical areas. The trees are perennial in habitat. The trees are almost 50ft to 200ft in height. It has nearly 36 sister species, including Rudraksha. All trees bearing white flowers with fringed petals developing into drupaceous fruit resembling olive. The main trunk of rudraksha tree is cylindrical. The branches of Rudraksha spread in all directions is such a way that when growing in natural habitat, the crown takes the shape of a pyramid.



LOL

Enjoy a fun filled evening as standup artiste Gaurav Kapoor is here with his bag of jokes. Listen to him speak about observational humour and anecdotes, stories from corporate offices and more.
When: March 6 onwards
Where: Vapour Pub and Brewery, Indiranagar

GET CREATIVE

Learn woodcut printing online and practice the art of carving designs on wood. The workshop is facilitated by experts. The cost of the session is ₹ 499.
When: March 1, 3pm
Where: Online
Details: bookmyshow.com

SHORT PLAY CONTEST

Pravara Theatre and Ashvagosha Theatre Trust are organising Bengaluru Short Play festival. The aim is to set a platform for performing short plays and reward them under seven categories.
When: March 1 onwards **Details:** 9686869676

SPIRITUAL DEAL

Get a wide collection of Rudrakshas at the Rudralife exhibition-cum-sale, organised ahead of Mahasivaratri. Saraswathi Bandh, Swasthya Bandh among others are some of the power combinations available at the exhibition
When: Until March 2
Where: Hotel Ajantha, MG Road **Details:** 93424 83454

ADAMYA RANGASAMSKRUTHI PRESENTS *NAANU CHANDRAGUPTANEMBA MAURYA*, BY DIRECTOR MALATESHA BADIGER. DETAILS: MARCH 1, RAVINDRA KALAKSHETRA, 9880142532

SCIENCE EXHIBITION

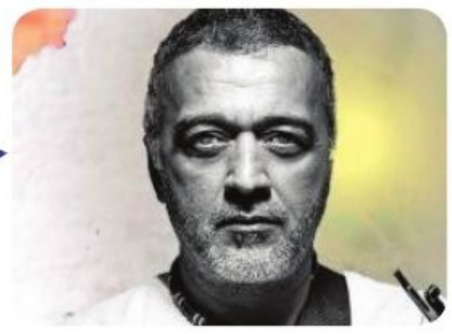
Bengaluru City University is celebrating state-level science museum exhibition. The exhibition will also hold discussions on subjects like space journey from Mars to moon and genetic complications in medical research. **When:** Mar 1 & 2
Details: 080 22961000

SHOW TIME

Watch *The Colour of Loss* based on the *The White Book* by Han Kang. The story is based on lyrical and disquieting exploration of personal grief.
Ticket: ₹ 300
Details: Insider.in

WEEKEND MUSIC

Get ready to experience a soulful evening of music, featuring Lucky Ali this weekend. Listen to the songs of 2000's and travel back in time with the artiste. Ticket: ₹ 2500 **When:** March 7, 4pm
Where: UB City **Details:** Insider.in



WOMEN'S DAY CONTEST

The Talking Canvas pays tribute to women's tough life during pandemic by organising Draw & Doodle contest for children to show love to moms and teachers. The contest is open for children aged between 5 to 12 years in three categories: 3-5, 6-9 and 10-12 age groups. **When:** March 8 onwards **Where:** Online **Details:** The Talking Canvas website

THEATRE FESTIVAL

Sri Vivekananda Kalakendra will be conducting Ranga Sambhrama, a cultural theatre event to create a platform for aspiring talents to exhibit their potential in theatre. Plays related to historical, social, patriotic, folk will be performed as part of the 9-day festival.
When: Until March 7, 6:30 pm **Where:** Samkruthi Sadana, Vidyapeeta, ITI Layout **Details:** 9341254165

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

DILL CHICKEN SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- **Olive oil -** 1 tbsp ■ **Carrot -** 2, medium, chopped
- **Onion,** 1, small, coarsely chopped
- **Garlic -** 2 cloves, minced
- **Whole wheat pasta -** 1/2 cup
- **Chicken -** 1-1/2 cups, coarsely shredded
- **Sodium chicken broth -** 6 cups, reduced
- **Frozen peas -** 1-1/2 cups
- **Fresh baby spinach -** 10 cups
- **Fresh dill -** 2 tbsp, chopped (Or dill weed - 1 tbsp)
- **Lemon juice -** 2 tbsp ■ **Pepper,** coarsely ground

METHOD

- In a thick-bottomed pot, heat oil over medium heat. Add carrots, onion and garlic; saute until carrots are tender, 4-5 minutes.
- Stir in the pasta, chicken and broth. Bring it to a boil. Reduce heat and let it simmer, for ten minutes.
- Add peas, spinach and dill and cook till tender. Add lemon juice and serve hot with pepper.

- Rina Mehta, Hyderabad

FIT BIT

ARDHA KURMASANA

(HALF TORTOISE POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'ardha' means half, 'kurma' means tortoise or turtle and asana means posture. It is a beginner seated stretch used in Bikram Yoga as a restorative asana. Bikram consists of the 26 asanas practised in a hot, humid room. It improves memory, boosts mental clarity and calms the nervous system. Bikram Choudhury, founder of Bikram yoga, claims this asana can even help yogis live longer. Like the full version of Kurmasana, it activates the Manipura (solar plexus) Chakra, which is associated with transformative power and self-esteem. As a grounding pose, it balances the Muladhara (root) Chakra, which promotes emotional security.

STEPS

- First, sit on your heels with the knees and feet together.
- Now, raise your arms up over your head and bring your palms together with thumbs crossed.
- Keep your spine straight while maintaining the arms perfectly straight throughout this pose. Stretch and inhale.
- Exhale, slowly bend your body forward and maintain it in a straight line from your fingertips to the tailbone.
- Stretch your body forward until your forehead touches the floor. The sides of your hands should reach the floor.
- Now, engage your arms and slowly straighten your elbow, ensuring the elbows, wrists and triceps are lifted off the floor. Keep sliding your fingertips forward. Reach the buttocks simultaneously back to your heels with a deep spine stretch. Your abdominal muscles and eventually your buttocks will touch your heels.
- Let your hips reach towards the heels, bring your chin slightly forward. Now relax your shoulders with a deep breath. Hold this pose for 20 seconds. Now, come out of this pose.

BENEFITS

- The organs of the midriff or abdomen are effectively stimulated.
- Improves functioning of digestive and respiratory systems.
- Spine gets stretched much longer while performing this.
- Helps in spreading out the hips and shoulders.
- Beneficial in constipation, asthma flatulence and diarrhea.
- Powerful antidote against anxiety and useful for sleeping disorders. Problems associated with the spine or back can be treated.

LIMITATIONS

- Pregnant women or people suffering from any kind of preexisting medical conditions, should avoid this.
- It should be performed under the guidance of a yoga expert.
- Don't practise after heavy meals or under the effects of sedatives, drugs and alcohol.

– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

THE RAMSEY SHOW
The Ramsey Show offers up straight talk from Dave Ramsey and his team of co-hosts. Millions listen in as callers from all walks of life learn how to get out of debt and start building for the future.
- On Spotify

PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE, LIVE!
Episodes from this podcast offers conversations between artist and audience—intimate stories about early inspirations, the creative process and what they've learned along the way.
- On Spotify

BOOKS AND BOBA
Books & Boba is a book club dedicated to books written by Asian and Asian American authors. Every episode discusses books from a range of genres such contemporary, historical fiction, sci-fi, fantasy and memoirs.
- On Apple Podcasts

GRIEFCAST
We've all probably experienced what it's like to lose someone, and it's not easy dealing with grief and death. In this podcast, host Cariad Lloyd interviews comedians and funny folk about grief, loss and the unique weirdness of that time.
- On Apple Podcasts

BECOMING WISE
The Becoming Wise podcast offers depth and discovery in the time it takes to make a cup of tea. Each episode is curated from hundreds of big conversations with wise and graceful lives.
- On Apple Podcasts

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

AATAGARA
Ten contestants of a reality show, who come from different backgrounds, are taken to a secluded island. When some of them get killed one after another, it is up to the rest to investigate the matter.
- Cast: Chiranjeevi Sarja, Meghana Raj, Parul Yadav

ANJANI PUTRA
Viraj, an heir to a textile business, learns that Bhairava, a gangster, seeks to illegally acquire his family's land. A bitter enmity erupts between the two, causing bloodshed.
- Cast: Puneet Rajkumar, Rashmika Mandana, Ramya Krishnan

RANNA
Sharat assures his ageing grandfather that he will reunite him with his estranged daughter. To fulfil his promise, he goes to work for the woman's family as a driver. The challenges before make him release that it is not an easy deal to bring her home.
- Cast: Kichcha Sudeep, Haripriya, Prakash Raj

BHARAATE
Jagan, a local travel guide, falls in love with Radha, a tourist who visits his city. Though she leaves without saying goodbye, fate conspires to be them together again.
- Cast: Sri Murali, Rachita Ram, Sreeleela

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 QUEST 15 – THE NATURE OF PLANTS AND FORESTS
A forest is so much more than a group of trees. In this Quest, we'll discover how forests communicate, share resources, and defend themselves. To begin, Valentin Hammoudi explains some of the fascinating ways that plants defend themselves.

2 THE ELLIPTICAL POOL TABLE: A MATHEMATICIAN'S DREAM
Ever since pool or billiards has existed, mathematicians and physicists have had these thought experiments about mathematical pool and mathematical billiards. Learn what an elliptical pool table can teach us about mathematics.

3 IF YOU ADULTS WON'T SAVE THE WORLD, WE WILL BY XIYE BASTIDA
In a letter to her grandmother, Xiye Bastida reflects on what led her to become a leading voice for global climate activism – from mobilising school climate strikes to speaking at the United Nations Climate Summit alongside Greta Thunberg – and traces her resolve, resilience and profound love of the earth to the values passed down to her.

4 THE MONEY TALK THAT EVERY COUPLE NEEDS TO HAVE BY WENDY DE LA ROSA
When it comes to talking about money with your significant other, most of us... just don't. But the fact is, if you share a life, you need to discuss your finances now, says behavioural scientist Wendy De La Rosa. She explains why and shares three tips to get you started.

5 3 THINGS NEW PARENTS SHOULD CONSIDER BEFORE GOING BACK TO WORK BY EMILY OSTER
Should you go back to work after having kids? It's an emotional decision, but weighing three factors can make it easier, says author and economist Emily Oster.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

U- TURN (Kannada)
A young female reporter works on a story about motorists who break rules at a two-road junction. However, when the offenders mysteriously die one by one, she embarks on a search for the truth.
Cast: Shraddha Srinath, Roger Narayan, Dileep Raj
- Watch on Netflix

RED (Telugu)
The police are convinced that they have arrested the right man for murder until curious details begin to surface.
Cast: Malavika Sharma, Ram Pothineni, Amritha Aiyer
- Watch on: Netflix

BHEEMASENA NALAMAHARAJA (Kannada)
A pinch of love, a dollop of happiness with a scoop of togetherness. Join this cook on a flavoursome journey of love, loss and friendship. When tragedy sizzles through his life, it is to see if he can save the dish and toss a sweet ending.
Cast: Aravind Iyer, Achyuth Kumar, Aarohi Narayan
- Watch on Amazon Prime

PARIYERUM PERUMAL (Tamil)
Pariyan, a law student belonging to a lower caste, falls in love with Jothi, a girl from an upper caste. However, their relationship irks Jothi's family members who harass Pariyan to no end.
Cast: Kathir, Anandhi, Yogi Babu, G Marimuthu
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

BAND BAAJA BAARAAT (Hindi)
Shruti and Bittoo, two youngsters from Delhi, start a wedding planning enterprise called Shaadi Mubarak. However, their professional relationship is jeopardised when Shruti falls in love with Bittoo.
Cast: Ranveer Singh, Ranveer Singh, Manu Rishi
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

VANAPRASTHAM (Malayalam)
An illicit relationship between a Kathakali dancer and a young woman from an upper caste family, results in an illegitimate child. He faces hardships when she refuses to let him see their child.
Cast: Mohanlal, Suhasini Maniratnam, Kalamandalam Gopi
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

LOVE AAJ KAL (Hindi)
In a technology-driven world where love is on speed-dial, two lovers find themselves overcoming distances, failures and heartbreaks to find each other again and preserve the love they had abandoned.
Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, Rishi Kapoor, Giselli Monteiro
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

ENGLISH

TRUE DETECTIVE (English, series)
Police officers and detectives around the USA are forced to face dark secrets about themselves and the people around them while investigating homicides.
Cast: Matthew McConaughey, Woody Harrelson, Mahershala Ali, Rachel McAdams
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

BIG MOUTH (English, series)
Even for a cartoon character, going through puberty isn't easy for a young person. Andrew is learning that first hand as he experiences the nightmare that is growing up in this animated series geared toward adults. Along for the ride are friends Nick and Jessi, who develop a budding romance along the way.
Cast: Nick Kroll, Jenny Slate, John Mulaney, Jason Mantzoukas
- Watch on: Netflix

UNHINGED (English)
After a confrontation with an unstable man at an intersection, a woman becomes the target of his rage.
Cast: Russell Crowe, Caren Pistorius, Gabriel Bateman
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

ON BODY AND SOUL (Hungarian: Testrol és lélekrol)
When a man and woman who meet at work begin to know each other, they discover that they have the same dreams at night, and they decide to make them come true.
Cast: Alexandra Borbély, Géza Morcsányi, Zoltán Schneider, Réka Tenki
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION
Netflix: ₹ 199 per month
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹ 399 per year

A photograph from Cop Shiva's latest series

A new photo series by Shivaraju BS, a cop-turned-photographer, captures how Bengaluru streets are trickling back to their pre-pandemic self

Clicks of the city

MONIKA MONALISA

The humdrum of everyday life sometimes turns out to be the best inspiration for art. So, Shivaraju BS aka Cop Shiva's latest photo series captures the city whirring back to the grind after months of lockdown. The series, called Live Life From Bangalore, is on display on his Instagram handle (@Cop_shiva_).

The cop-turned-photographer, known for documenting street life, wanted to capture what the same streets he had been to before pandemic looked like now. "The lockdown has been tough. I am the kind of person who is always exploring the streets of Bangalore, discovering new things. But being within four walls was not easy for me," says the 41-year-old. When the lockdown ended, he went back to his village in Bannikuppe, to spend some time there but soon started missing city life. "I started wondering what's happening in Bangalore, are people back from their hometown? Or if the streets and *gallis* that have been shut for so long have opened," says Shiva, who eventually came back to find these answers for himself.

While he found city life to have resumed normalcy, the shutterbug felt the "X-factor" was still missing. "The crowd that defines the city was missing, be it whether it's the rush hour at MTR, Lalbagh Road or at any temple for a festival. The city may look like all is back to normal but you can feel it's not the same as before," says Shiva, who shares that his usual hangouts are City Market, Shivajinagar and Kalasipalyam Market. He explains how the Karaga festival, which happens in March, is a big celebration in Bengaluru and other parts of Karnataka. "But people are still unsure if it's happening in their locality or not. I don't like that uncertainty," he says.

Shiva is yet to decide if he will exhibit these photographs but he is happy that the series is taking people down a nostalgic lane. "People have reached out to me and told me the photographs are reminding them of the pre-pandemic days," he says.

The crowd that defines the city was missing, be it whether it's the rush hour at MTR, Lalbagh Road or at any temple for a festival. The city may look like all is back to normal but you can feel it's not the same as before

- Shivaraju BS, photographer

Pride of Karnataka

- **State animal:** Asian Elephant
- **State bird:** Indian roller
- **State butterfly:** Southern birdwing
- **State fish:** Carnatic carp
- **State flower:** Lotus
- **State tree:** Sandalwood

I find birds and animals easy to draw since I've been drawing them since I was young. I can pick out and define their characteristics

- **Radha Pennathur, graphic designer**

STATE OF AWARENESS

This Bengaluru-based graphic designer is using art to create awareness around the symbols of each Indian state

SIMRAN AHUJA

Some months ago, when Radha Pennathur was looking up how to draw something, she came across an interesting fact: State symbols. "It led me down a rabbit hole of sorts and I got to know that each state and union territory in India has some state symbols: Fruits, flowers, trees, birds, animals," says the 23-year-old, who is now capturing the same through a series of artworks she is doing for Wildlife Conservation Society. "As a wildlife organisation, we wanted to draw people's attention towards the rich flora, fauna and diversity of our country," says Pennathur, who works as a graphic designer at the organisation.

The series, called State Symbols of India, kickstarted this month. So far, she has covered Andhra Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh, where besides individual illustrations for each symbol, Pennathur also made an overview of all in the shape of the state's borders. Each state and union territory will be covered in alphabetical order, with posts going out weekly or fortnightly. "I would loved to have started with my home state of Karnataka but alphabetical just made it simpler to do," says the city-bred designer, who is a graduate from Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology.

Explaining the idea behind the series, she says while most learn about such elements in school, the consciousness of its identity with a state is lost over time. "Once I started working on this series, I've developed a better mental map of where certain species come from. I hope others find the same over time," she says. Work for each illustration begins with research, followed by a day of sketching and colouring each. "I find birds and animals easier to draw since I've been drawing them since I was young. I can pick out and define their characteristics better but I don't have as much practice with plants," she explains.

The process has also been rewarding in terms of new information. "Some states have a fruit symbol too, where mango seems to be a popular choice. Some others have state butterflies too!" she exclaims, adding that these include Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand. Currently an online series that is shared on Wildlife Conservation Society–India's handle (@wcsindia), the artwork does show scope to be expanded into offline modes as well. "My personal obsession with cards – be it playing, tarot or vintage – bled into my work. So these illustrations can potentially be gamified as well," says Pennathur.

Valheim: A land of opportunity

It appears that videogame developers are onto us. They have discovered our interest in Nordic mythology themes, and noted that references to 'Odin' would mean greater concurrent gameplay. This week, I played Valheim. The game is still in Early Access.

A valkyrie throws me onto the centre of a stone circle. I name my warrior 'Quofles' (to intimidate enemies) and strike up a conversation with Hugin the raven. Hugin tells me to do things. I do not listen to him, because I do not care much for reading in games. Valheim yields to my unspoken request.

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

The environment is filled with icons that propel me forward. Conversation is redundant. I am a lone human in new land.

Quofles (me) realises that she needs to innovate to survive. The map is undiscovered, and the forests hold dangerous creatures. Warrior need rock, wood, and berry. Sometimes, warrior fight. But the creatures are initially easy to deal with, and they give her craftable items. She makes a torch that keeps her warm. Hugin flies towards her, but as Quofles is a non-conversational warrior, she pretends to listen till he flies away.

The comforting music and the picturesque environment aside, there is one other reason I play Valheim. The game is omniscient. A thought would pop into my head, like, 'It would be nice to have mushrooms now'. And then, mushrooms appear. Life in Valhalla was infinitely better than real life. However, the moment I reached this conclusion, the game ceased to meet my expectations. I was hoping for a PS5 to manifest in front of Quofles, which did not happen. The game also did not allow the warrior to nap during the daylight hours.

Although I played solo, I now look forward to a future where I can take my friends on my freshly crafted longboat and find bosses that we will destroy together. I sacrifice all 32 out of 32 of my inventory spaces to rate this game, where I will create many server universes on. TO VALHALLA!

Love is in the air

RCB bowler Yuzvendra Chahal is spending a romantic holiday with his wife Dhanashree Verma in Maldives. The cricketer shared a picture of the two of them facing the coast and the blue skies. The cricketer posted a picture with his wife on social media and wrote, "At the right place, right time with the right person #foreverandbeyond". Check out the cricketer's Instagram for the aww-worthy photo.

PLAY ON
Arjun Sukumaran

(Arjun is a gamer, book lover and an all-round renaissance man)

It's easy enough to describe what a game has you do, but it's often easier to describe the thematic nature of a game by referencing something else — other games, books, movies, what have you. For example, I could tell you that Ex Libris is a game for 1-4 players who are all competing to build the best book collection so that they will be awarded the title of Chief Librarian of a town set in a fantasy realm. Or I could just tell you that you and your friends are going head-to-head in order to become the new head librarian of the Hogwarts Library (or the new Librarian of Unseen University, for the Pratchett fans out there), and you've immediately got a sense of what Ex Libris feels like to play.

At its heart, Ex Libris is a worker-placement game — every round, you'll send your assistants out to various locations to carry out the actions they allow. Just about every action you can do can be boiled down to two things — drawing more cards and shelving cards into your library.

You see, every player is going to have a hand of cards that represents sections of a bookshelf, each with multiple categories in various categories on them — your task is to shelve those cards (in an organised manner, of course) so that your hopefully well-stocked library will score you lots of points come the final reckoning.

Of course, there are lots of hurdles between you and glory. The most prominent one is that you can't just fill up your shelves willy-nilly — the book cards you add to your library must be sorted alphabetically (and numerically within an alphabetical category!) or else you'll have to flip them face-down and they'll score nothing for you.

You'll also be judged by the structural stability of your library, as well as the variety of genres that you manage to collect. Muddying the waters, however, is the fact that every game will have one genre that is prominent and one that is banned. Whoever collects the most books in the prominent category can stand to score a truckload of points, but banned books are going to bring your score right back down.

Ex Libris is the gaming equivalent of bubble wrap, or comfort food; it's just satisfying. Slotting in the perfect card that finishes a row of your shelf and gives you the lead in the race for category majority? That feels great!

And these moments aren't few and far between, they come along all the time. As a lover of books, I was always predisposed to like this game but I wasn't expecting to adore it as much as I do.

I've barely scratched the surface here. I haven't told you about how one of your assistants is a special assistant who gives you a special power — you might have a ghost who can haunt other players, a wizard who can use magic to rearrange your bookshelves on the fly, or a literal bookworm. I haven't spoken about how wonderful it is that each and every book on each and every card has a unique name that's usually either a groan-inducing pun or laugh-out-loud funny or both. Truth is, there isn't enough space here to do Ex Libris justice — but, if the thought of an entire game devoted to building the perfect library made you go weak at the knees, you don't need me to say any more.

ATHENEUM: MYSTIC LIBRARY

One magical library-sorting game clearly wasn't enough for Renegade Game Studios because they put out Atheneum last year. Although there's a definite family resemblance, Atheneum is much more of a spatial puzzle as you try to stack your books just so.

WHAT'S NEW?

RED RISING

Among news about new releases, Stonemaier Games' announcement about a card game based on Pierce Brown's Red Rising sci-fi series was definitely up there. It looks to be heavily inspired by Fantasy Realms; so this is one to watch.

GREAT WESTERN TRAIL

This is considered to be Alexander Pfister's magnum opus, but it's never been a looker. That will soon change, because it's not only getting a swanky new 2nd Edition, but it's also getting a pair of spiritual sequels that move the action to South America and New Zealand.

CITY READ

Applications invited for project assistant

Bangalore University's Department of Chemistry is looking for a project assistant to work under the UGC-BSR project for two years on consolidated pay of ₹15,000 per month. Candidates with M.Sc. Chemistry (organic chemistry) with a minimum of 55 per cent marks and additional qualification such as K-SET, CSIR-NET Lectureship or M.Phil. can also apply. Eligible candidates can send their CV to: mdafpasha@gmail.com

SMARTADS

HOUSE FOR SALE
South Facing 15x40 Newly Built House (G+1) 3 BHK 1300 Sqft Sri Rama Layout, Manganahalli Near Vishweshwaraiah Layout.
87928 07557

COMMERCIAL
KENGERI
For Sale Commercial Site 60x75 South/West Corner 80ft Ring Road Jagajyothi Layout.
98457 80996

'I INTEND TO BRING THE WOW FACTOR'

A still from Roberrt

DoP Sudhakar S Raj discusses the artistic approach he has adopted in Darshan-starrer *Roberrt*, the dynamics of his work, and much more about the film that will release on March 11

A SHARADHAA

CINEMATOGRAPHER Sudhakar S Raj's first association with 'Challenging Star' Darshan was in *Chowka* (2017), where he got the opportunity to picturise the actor in a cameo appearance. Working with Darshan once again in *Roberrt* is double the excitement for the DOP of this film.

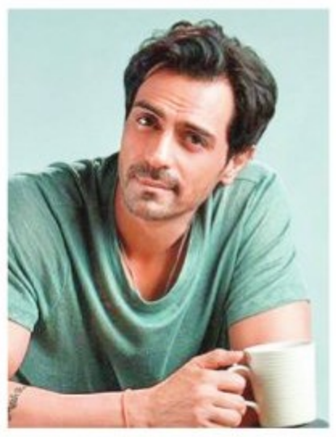
As cameraman, Sudhakar has worked in over 10 films. In *Roberrt*, he will portray Darshan– who has over 50 films to his credit– in a completely different manner in terms of looks, style, body language and overall screen presentation. "A good story can be enhanced when it is rightly visualised, which is where our creativity comes to the fore. We need to bring out a product that matches the director's vision and imagination. Having travelled with director Tharun Kishore Sudhir from the time I was associated with his brother, Nanda Kishore, in *Adhyaksha*, I share a rapport built over six years. This has helped us stay on the same page," says the lensman whose frames and lighting are much sought-after.

Darshan and Sudhakar S Raj

For over a year now, Sudhakar's focus has been *Roberrt*. In fact he has not taken up any other project. "I was particular about the set design. Along with the director, we worked on the colour combinations, the costume of every actor, and detailing of every accessory that was used in the picture. I intend to bring out the grandeur and 'wow' factor in every frame on silver screen," says Sudhakar, who enjoys watching different works of cinematographers in various languages and admires the way *Mad Max* was presented.

The DoP had his fanboy moment while shooting with the Challenging Star in *Roberrt*. "I didn't want to go with a regular format and was glad when Darshan sir was open to experimenting. Having picturised him in a cameo role in *Chowka*, I was thrilled to be associated with the actor for a full-fledged film. *Roberrt* involved a lot of homework," says Sudhakar, who found Darshan camera-friendly. "He understands cinema and the job of technicians. My responsibility was presenting him in a unique manner," he says.

The highlights of *Roberrt*, the cinematographer says, is that 80 per cent of the film was shot on sets that were created. "Each one is different. The action sequences, songs, and the way the hero and heroine are presented in the film will be talked about," says a confident Sudhakar. He adds that all this wouldn't have been possible without the support of producer S Umapathy. "Credit must go to him for the outcome," he says.



Arjun Rampal completes *Dhaakad* shoot

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Arjun Rampal has completed the shoot for the upcoming action film Dhaakad. He plays the antagonist Rudraveer in the Kangana Ranaut-starrer.

Rampal posted a picture with the entire team of the film on Instagram and captioned it as "one hell of a film".

Sharing the photos, he wrote: "Just superb!!!!! One of the most amazing teams I have had the pleasure to work with. Thank you guys will miss you till the next schedule. #Rudraveer is one mad character. #Dhaakad is one hell of a film."

The actor shot for the film over the past few months in Bhopal.

Dhaakad is a spy thriller that casts Kangana as Agent Agni. The Razneesh Razy Ghai directorial is expected to hit screens on October 1.

Saaho director Sujeeth meets Kichcha Sudeep

The filmmaker, who was in Bengaluru on Saturday, is said to have discussed a storyline with the *Vikrant Rona* star

CE FEATURES

Saaho director Sujeeth's reported meeting with Kichcha Sudeep in Bengaluru on Saturday has led to speculations about the actor-director collaborating for a film.

Sudeep's close associate Ram shared a picture with the director on his Facebook account and wrote, "It was such a pleasure to meet you bro! Looking forward to your next film after saaho! @sujeethsign (sic)."

According to a source, the director met Sudeep at Innovative City - where the actor is currently hosting the 8th edition of *Bigg Boss Kannada* - and is said to have discussed a storyline with the actor. "Sujeeth had a script, which is suitable for Sudeep, and he has just dropped to discuss the storyline, and the discussion is at a very initial stage," added the source.

Sujeeth, who directed 2014's *Run Raja Run*, managed to make a pan-Indian appeal with his second film *Saaho* starring Prabhas. The director was also supposed to direct Telugu star Chiranjeevi in the remake of the Malayalam film *Lucifer* but opted out due to creative differences.

Meanwhile, Sudeep who is busy hosting the reality show, also has *Kotigobba 3* slated to release on April 29. The film directed by Shiva Karthik is currently in the post-production stage. Barring the song sequences, Sudeep has also completed shooting for Anup Bhandari's *Vikrant Rona*. The actor is yet to make an official announcement of his next.

Sudeep

Prabhas' *Salaar* to hit screens on April 14,2022

CE FEATURES

PRABHAS' *Salaar* has a release date. The Prashanth Neel directorial will hit screens on April 14, 2022. The makers of the film, Hombale Films, announced the release date earlier today with a poster.

The film will be released simultaneously in five languages — Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam and Hindi. While Shruti Haasan has been roped in to play the female lead, the rest of the cast is yet to be announced.

Salaar marks Hombale Films' seventh venture. Other than this, the production house also has the Puneeth Rajkumar-starrer *Yuvarathnaa* and *KGF: Chapter II* currently under production.

While Prashanth Neel is awaiting the release of *KGF: Chapter II*, Prabhas also has *Radhe Shyam*, *Adipurush*, and an untitled sci-fi thriller directed by Nag Ashwin, in the pipeline.

Prabhas

Yami Gautam starts shooting for *Dasvi*

CE FEATURES

Yami Gautam began shooting for her upcoming film *Dasvi* in Agra. Her co-stars Abhishek Bachchan and Nimrat Kaur had already stared shooting for the film earlier.

Yami plays a Harayanvi IPS officer in the film and had to learn the language and diction for her role. She has taken workshops for her language, diction and body language.

She posted a picture on Instagram and captioned it: "My first day on the set of #dasvi playing #jyotideswal. Proud and honoured to play an IPS office. #jaihind."

Yami has also been roped in for Faraar directed by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, who earlier helmed Pink. She will also be seen in Behzad Khambata's film, A Thursday, which will mark her debut in the OTT space. Yami has three others projects in hand.

Dasvi is directed by Tushar Jalota, and the unit started shooting in Agra Central jail two days ago. The police and PAC (Provincial Armed Constabulary) had to be deployed for security cover to keep local crowds at bay. The shoot is expected to take place in different parts of Agra.

Celebrities across languages launch teaser of mud racing flick titled *Muddy*

CE FEATURES

Many celebrities from the Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi film industries virtually launched the teaser of the upcoming multi-lingual film, Muddy, The movie is touted as India's first feature film on mud racing.

The teaser was also launched virtually by Tamil actor Jayam Ravi, Malayalam actors Fahad Faasil and Unni Mukundan, Telugu filmmaker Anil Ravipudi, Kannada actor Dr. Sivaraj Kumar., and Bollywood aator Arjun Kapoor.

The film, directed by Dr. Praghabal, was announced by Tamil star Vijay Sethupati last week when he released the motion potion on February 20.

Actors Yuvan, Ridhaan Krishna, Anusha Suresh and Amit Sivadas Nair are the lead artists in the film and Harish Peradi, IM Vijayan and Renji Panicker will be seen in pivotal roles. Muddy will be released in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.